

Hafa Adai!

Interact Club of SSHS installs new officers, welcomes new members. **PAGE 2**

OVR successfully resolves long-standing Corrective Action Plan. **PAGE 4**

\$1

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HANMI says loss of Asiana means loss of revenue, jobs

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With another long-term investor pulling the plug on its operations in the CNMI, the Hotel Association of the NMI said the Commonwealth will immediately feel the

loss of Asiana Airlines as it also means further loss of revenue and jobs.

Asiana Airlines, who announced its decision to close its Saipan last week, is the second long-term CNMI investor to announce its closure. Last month, Hyatt Regency Saipan announced that it, too, would

be closing shop this month.

Asiana Airlines has been a frontrunner in providing quality air travel to residents of the Marianas and promoting Korean tourism in the islands

See HANMI on Page 4



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC unfinished casino resort in the heart of Garapan is seen in a deteriorating state.

Clear Management asks bankruptcy court to approve sale of IPI vehicles

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Court-appointed receiver Clear Management Ltd. has filed a motion requesting the NMI bankruptcy court to allow the sale of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's vehicles despite IPI's assets being

tied up in an ongoing bankruptcy proceeding.

Last Friday, Clear Management, through attorney Michael White, filed a motion for an order approving report and accounting. The motion essentially asks the NMI bankruptcy court to approve the sale of IPI's

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Sidur, Villaspir lead 45 Rota promotees



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Valedictorian of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. High School and BOE Academic Excellence Award recipient, Sayema A. Sidur, third right, poses with her family and BOE acting chair Maisie B. Tenorio, left, and member Andrew L. Orsini, right, during the promotion ceremony last Thursday on Rota.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. High School salutatorian Sayema A. Sidur.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. High School salutatorian Jashly G. Villaspir.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The CNMI's southernmost and friendliest island of Rota promoted 45 students to

See SIDUR on Page 4

FOTM expresses gratitude for publication of MTMNM management plan

RELATED NEWS

Final management plan for MTMNM published. **PAGE 3**

The Friends of the Mariana Trench, a dedicated group of advocates for the protection of one of the world's most iconic natural wonders, extends its heartfelt thanks to the Biden-Harris administration, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, local

CNMI government, and the Mariana Trench Monument Advisory Council for the successful publication of the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument management plan.

This comprehensive management plan, published on June 6, 2024, represents a significant milestone in the collaborative effort to safeguard

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Babauta

INSIDE



LOCAL

U.S. Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary-Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor this week attended the Micronesian Islands Forum in Guam.

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BUSINESS

In collaboration with Pride Marianas, Crowne Plaza Saipan is dedicated to supporting and advocating for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in the Northern Mariana Islands.

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LIFE & STYLE

After 41 years and over 8,000 episodes, Pat Sajak made his final turn as the renowned host of "Wheel of Fortune" on Friday.

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RACQUEL FLOYD

The new officers of the Interact Club of Saipan Southern High School were inducted last Wednesday at the Paradise Resort & Spa in Koblerville. From left, Rotary Club of Saipan director Greg Borja, Stephanie Sevon, Kyla Yi, Rotary Club president Irene Holl, Yu Hui Cao, Rotary Club incoming president Joann Aquino, Jared Munahane, Donovan Tudela, the Interact Club of SSHS co-advisers Rosalyn Ajoste and Genelin Camacho, and Memama Asep, seated.



RACQUEL FLOYD

Interact of SSHS new officers and new members pose for a group photo. From left, Interact Club of SSHS co-adviser Genelin Camacho, Lamari Cabrera, Stephane Sexon, new members, Rotary Club of Saipan director Greg Borja, Memama Asep, Sachiko Fred, Rotary Club president Irene Holl, Rotary Club incoming president Joann Aquino, and Interact Club of SSHS co-adviser Rosalyn Ajoste.

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Local

Interact Club of SSHS installs new officers, welcomes new members

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Interact Club of Saipan Southern High School installed new officers for the upcoming school year during its 7th Annual Recognition and Installation Program last Wednesday night at the Paradise Resort & Spa in Koblerville.

The new Interact Club of SSHS officers for school year 2024-2025 are led by president and public relations officer Memama Asep, vice president and historian Domingka Kosy, secretary and community service director Stephanie Sexon, treasurer Monica Shilling, co-secretary/co-treasurer Liam Mendoza, sergeant-at-arms Lamari Cabrera, and club service director Shawn Salas.

In her acceptance speech, Asep promised to dedicate her time and effort toward the Interact Club of SSHS as well as continue to work harder and improve her leadership skills.

“I wouldn’t be here today without the members’ votes and support from the outgoing staff. I would also like to thank past members for making my time in the club more memorable. I am most honored to be the Saipan Southern High School Interact incoming president.”

Asep took over from outgoing Interact Club of SSHS president Kayla Yi.

Aside from the swearing in of new officers, the Interact Club of SSHS also welcomed new members Yu Hui Cao, Princes Castro, Sachko Fred, Lorraine Iglecias, Tiffany Iglecias, Fatima Ito, Trisha Mae Joaquin, Jared Munahane, Deion Tupas, and Angel Nica Voces

Interact Club of SSHS adviser Genelin Camacho said last Wednesday’s induction ceremony marked the first time it was conducted in a semi-formal style. She also expressed her joy that there were more parents present this year, unlike in the past when only students and a few SSHS faculty were present. Aside

from Camacho, Rosalyn Ajoste also serves as Interact Club of SSHS adviser.

Class advisor and SSHS alumnus Donovan Tudela, who served as guest speaker, stressed how students can contribute to seven important causes—promote peace, take part in health campaigns, support projects that provide clean water assistance, launch public drives or scholarship programs for those who are in need, encourage entrepreneurship and support small businesses, participate in projects that offer healthcare and nutrition for mothers and their children, and protect the environment.

Rotary Club of Saipan president Irene Holl also shared her journey in Rotary and announced that Green Meadow School was certified as the fifth club member of Interact Club last May 28. She also commended Greg Borja for his hard work. Borja, in turn, asked Interact Club members to continue to prioritize service above self.

During the event, special awards were also given to Asep and Stephanie Sexon for the Interactors of the Year Award, Jared Manahane for the Interact Spirit Award, Kayla Yi and Yu Hui Cao for Outstanding Leadership Award, and Yi for Distinguished Service Award.

The program also had raffle drawing and dance number from a member of SSHS Micronesian Dance Club. Jyler Villar and Sachko Fred served as emcees.

The Interact Club of SSHS is one of four Rotary youth clubs sponsored by the Rotary Club of Saipan, including clubs at Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Saipan International School. Interact clubs were created to bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of “service above self.” They are part of 14,911 Interact Club organizations found worldwide across 145 countries.

Final management plan for MTMNM published

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, and the CNMI released the final management plan and environmental assessment for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. The monument was established to protect and conserve unique and pristine habitats, historic objects, and features of high scientific interest.

The plan provides the foundation for long-term collaborative management and community stewardship of the monument, where public and community involvement will be key to achieving the plan's vision and goals over the next 15 years. Development of the plan advances the Biden-Harris administration's America the Beautiful initiative to restore, connect and conserve 30% of the nation's lands and waters by 2030.

"The incredible diversity of life that exists within the remarkably steep and deep ocean environments of the Mariana Trench, its hydrothermal vents and boiling waters makes this Marine National Monument an inspiring area worthy of our reflection and wonderment," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director Martha Williams. "The Service and our partners at NOAA

Fisheries are grateful for the perspectives, knowledge and collaboration of local and indigenous communities in determining the monument's management, improving our shared understanding and appreciation for its cultural and biological resources."

Located in the Mariana Archipelago east of the Philippines, the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument protects approximately 95,216 square miles of submerged lands and waters. The Mariana Trench is remarkable for its steep walls, distinctive geologic features, and deep ocean life forms. Mariana snailfish, deep-sea jellyfish, giant amphipods, and translucent sea cucumbers have found a home in this harsh environment amid shaggy bacterial mats. The Mariana Arc of Fire National WR/Volcanic Unit—an arc of undersea volcanoes and thermal vents—supports unusual life forms in some of the harshest conditions imaginable. Here species survive amid hydrothermal vents that produce highly acidic and boiling water. One of the coral reef sites in the Islands Unit of the monument has the highest density of sharks anywhere in the Pacific.

Under the management plan, the Service, NOAA Fisheries, and the CNMI will work as a monument management team to engage partners; conserve and protect the marine ecosystem; and establish stewardship, research, exploration, engagement and education programs that further understanding and connect people to the unique ecosystem and its inhabitants. Shared learning and outreach activities are vital to fostering the public's connection to the monument, and will focus on providing traditional access and cultural use, developing locally relevant curriculum and educational opportunities about the unique environment of the Mariana Trench, and the sea life protected therein.

"The Mariana Trench Marine National Monument has long-standing ancestral and cultural connections to the nearby residents," said assistant administrator for NOAA Fisheries Janet Coit. "From the early establishment of the monument, the local community and leaders in the Marianas have shared a desire to be involved with the monument. Their involvement has been important to the development of this management plan, and we are committed to working

together to conserve and protect this awe-inspiring place."

The final plan establishes long-term guidance to achieve monument goals and objectives, which are derived from the Presidential Proclamations, federal mandates, and public input. The Service and NOAA Fisheries selected the preferred alternative (Alternative 3), which adopts the management plan and permitting system that leverages the existing permitting programs of the joint management agencies. The final management plan was prepared with input from comments received during the 150-day public comment period from Feb. 24, 2021 to Sept. 22, 2021, including public meetings held in-person and virtually.

The 2009 Proclamation 8335 specified that monument management plans shall ensure the monument will be administered in accordance with the proclamation and shall provide for: ensuring traditional access by indigenous persons for culturally significant subsistence, cultural and religious uses; promoting scientific exploration and research; and providing public education and outreach programs. Traditional ecological knowledge is gained by centuries of first-hand observation and experience and can augment western scientific data. Traditional ecological knowledge will be part of the decision-making process and on-going management of the monument.

The final management plan and environmental assessment can be found on the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument website.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov and connect with us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly known as Twitter), LinkedIn, Flickr, and YouTube. **(PR)**

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Job Vacancy Announcement

Bookkeeper/Office Assistant (Full-time)

Location: ANAKS, Puerto Rico, Saipan

Responsibilities

- Organize and maintain accurate, up-to-date financial records for non-profit homeowner's association; manage invoicing, collections, accounts payable/receivable, and payroll in efficient and timely manner
- Reconcile bank statements, prepare and analyze accounting records and financial statements for accuracy, completeness and conformity to U.S. GAAP standards
- Compute and prepare taxes owed and ensure compliance with federal and state tax regulations, business license, annual corporate reports, etc.
- Respond to telephone and in-person inquiries, and email correspondence as directed
- Foster effective communication and cooperation among staff, owners, tenants, vendors, suppliers and government entities
- Other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications

- Associate degree in bookkeeping, accounting, business, finance, or related field
- Minimum four (4) years professional bookkeeping/accounting experience
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), and QuickBooks
- Strong communication, organizational, and problem-solving skills
- U.S. citizen/Permanent resident
- Multilingual a plus (Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Tagalog)

Compensation

- \$12.00 per hour
- Paid medical insurance
- Paid sick leave, annual vacation leave, holiday pay

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit their resume, cover letter, recent police clearance, and professional references via email to: office1@anaks.net by June 22, 2024. Please include "Bookkeeper/Office Assistant Application" in the subject line.

SCHOOL YEAR
2024-2025

Vax School

Outreach Schedule:

for student
vaccination &
school health
certificates

June 15	Gregorio T. Camacho (GTC) Elementary School 8:30am - 3:30pm
June 22	Francisco M. Sablan (FMS) Middle School 8:30am - 3:30pm
June 29	San Vicente Elementary School (SVES) 8:30am - 3:30pm
July 6	Tanapag Youth Center 8:30am - 3:30pm
July 13	Koblerville Elementary School (KES) 8:30am - 3:30pm
July 20	Mt. Carmel Joeten-Daidai Social Hall 8:30am - 3:30pm
July 27	Garapan Elementary School (GES) 8:30am - 3:30pm
Aug 3	Kagman Community Center 8:30am - 3:30pm



- School Health Certificates are **\$5.00 (cash only)**
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OVR successfully resolves long-standing Corrective Action Plan

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang commended the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for resolving long-standing audit findings from a federal monitoring review held back in 2019.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Rehabilitative Services Administration informed the CNMI's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation that OVR, Office of the Governor, has fully addressed all findings from a Federal Monitoring Review con-

ducted in 2019.

The RSA's VR Program specialist Michele Mulhern in an email stated, "As this is the case, the Corrective Action Plan has been successfully completed."

"Accountability and compliance to federal grant requirements are important to ensure we continue to provide important community services that are funded by these funding sources," said Palacios. "We commend and recognize the OVR staff's diligence/efforts in resolving issues that have been pending since 2019. We recog-

nize there's more work to do, but this is an important milestone."

On Aug. 29, 2020, RSA issued a monitoring report on the CNMI's Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment program concluding that "OVR does not maintain effective internal controls over the Federal award that provide reasonable assurances that the non-Federal entity is managing its award in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the award."

The report further stated, "While these control deficiencies suggest

elevated risk to OVR's effectiveness and efficiency of operations, reliability of reporting, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, the risk will be greatly reduced through management's development of internal controls at a level of detail necessary to address the complexity of its systems."

OVR director Jim Rayphand said, "This was a matter of aligning the language of our internal controls and operational practices with expecta-

tions of our grantors to ensure that we stay true to intended purpose of and properly administer the grantprograms under our care."

"Much of the corrected actions were already in place even before I came on board thanks to all of our staff, but namely our fiscal officer and former case services manager," Rayphand added. "We worked together on the final stretch to resolve the findings." (PR)

HANMI

From page 1

since May 1992.

In a statement from HANMI, it said the loss of Asiana will immediately be felt through the loss of jobs and revenue.

"Following the recent announcement that Hyatt Regency Saipan will be closing its doors to the public at the end of June 2024, Asiana Airlines' closure of the route of Incheon-Saipan is a huge setback. The loss of Asiana—another long-term investor with over 30 years of partnership with the Marianas—immediately translates to a loss of revenue and jobs," said HANMI.

HANMI noted that Asiana Airlines has been considering its closure since the beginning of the year due to financial losses on the Saipan route. However, they were

hired by a local company as a charter and have been able to continue their air service until now.

"This means that the market was already aware that Asiana Airlines may cease operations to Saipan. We were wondering if there were any actions undertaken on the CNMI side to help prevent this from happening," said HANMI.

HANMI said the loss of these flights is also significant to the tourism industry in general as Asiana is a full-service carrier in the same class as United Airlines in the United States and Japan Airlines in Japan.

"It is not a stretch to say that the current Marianas tourism industry is sustained almost entirely by Korean tourists. Currently, there are two weekly Asiana Airlines flights. The loss of these flights is significant to the industry, as Asiana is a full-service carrier in the same class as United Airlines in the United

States and JAL in Japan, providing critical first class and business seats and targeting a different traveler than low-cost carriers. We need both," said HANMI.

"Despite our goal of becoming a leading tourist destination worldwide, we seem to be heading in the opposite direction, and this requires policy change," HANMI adds.

As a result of Asiana's closure, HANMI believes that the Commonwealth Ports Authority should continue to make every effort to retain remaining international flights by reducing termina and landing fees.

In addition, HANMI says the administration should allow the Marianas Visitors Authority to market the CNMI to other viable markets including China.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

SIDUR

From page 1

high school, as Sayema A. Sidur was named the valedictorian, while Jashly G. Villaspir was the salutatorian during their promotion ceremony last Thursday at the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. High School campus.

Sidur was also the recipient of the Board of Education Academic Excellence Award presented by BOE chair Maisie B. Tenorio and BOE member Andrew L. Orsini.

The Commissioner of Education Excellence Award was presented to Villaspir by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and his key management.

The Subject Merit Awards were also recognized.

Sidur received the awards for English, Math, Social Studies, Chamorro, Computer, and Leadership Corps.

ro, Computer, and Leadership Corps.

Villaspir received the awards for English, Leadership Corps., and Career and Fine Arts.

Nitu Ali received the awards for English, Science, Chamorro, and Leadership Corps.

Haani Joy Barcinas had the awards for Chamorro and Physical Education.

Hailey Sage Chuman Manglona received the award for PE, and Sophia Barcinas, Raiahli Barcinas, Iha Farah Muna Hocog, J'ana Edat Ogo Hocog, and Hannah Isabel Reyes Salas received the award for Computer.

In Sidur's speech, she said she never imagined herself to be the top student considering the challenges she faced when she first moved to Rota from Bangladesh. She shared her struggles learning English, but with the unwavering support of her teachers, from home, and her

friends, she navigated through it.

"The journey from struggling to understand basic instructions to standing here as the valedictorian has been incredible. It's proof of what perseverance can do and how much supportive relationships matter. I'm really grateful for the guidance and encouragement I've received along the way-this achievement wouldn't have been possible without it," she said.

"I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my family for their constant support and belief in me.

Your love, encouragement, and sacrifices have been the foundation of my success, and I am deeply thankful for everything you've done for me."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

IPI

From page 1

vehicles despite the pending bankruptcy proceedings as these vehicles had been sold in an auction prior to IPI filing for bankruptcy.

According to the motion, on April 11, Clear Management conducted an auction of IPI vehicles. Eleven vehicles were sold to eight different bidders for a total of \$429,500. Of this sum, \$233,750 was paid, and is contained in an escrow trust account.

On April 19, IPI filed a petition under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

"The petition was filed before two of the winning bidders had paid for three of the vehicles. For this reason. Clear did not file an accounting of the sale, or a motion asking the Court to approve it, intending to do so after the payments in question were made," said White.

White noted that the vehicles are without original documentation and none of the vehicles are in Clear's physical possession as all of the vehicles are still located on IPI's property.

"Clear has no original title documents. It has only photocopies of title documents, which were provided to Clear by [IPI]. Since these photocop-

ies were given to Clear, Clear believes that they are not the debtor's property. Clear is also holding a number of annual vehicle registration documents, which were located inside the vehicles. These were removed from the vehicles so that Clear could attempt to verify ownership of the vehicles. Most of the vehicle registrations have expired," said White.

White argues that the \$233,750 paid for the 8 sold vehicles do not belong to IPI.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Early Intervention Program to destroy SY'20-'21 child records

The Public School System Early Intervention Program would like to inform parents of infants and toddlers who received Early Intervention Services from School Year 2020-2021, that your child's records are no longer needed by the program therefore will be destroyed in a manner that ensures all personal identifiers are removed from the record and the record is no longer personally identifiable.

The Early Intervention Program

will, maintain indefinitely, a permanent record of your child's name, address, phone numbers, entry date, exit date, and eligibility information.

Records, other than the permanent information listed above, will be destroyed 30 days from the date of this notice.

For any other information, call Robin Palacios, Early Intervention Program director, at (670) 664-4841. (PR)

FOTM

From page 1

the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. The plan outlines a strategic framework for the next 15 years, focusing on conservation, research, and education to foster a deeper connection between the public and this unique marine ecosystem.

The Friends applaud the monumental efforts of all parties involved, especially Superintendent Sean MacDuff, danger Jihan Younis, and Advisory Council chair Floyd Masga, along with Rich Salas (Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality), and Frank Raubaliman (Department of Community Cultural Affairs) for their unwavering commitment to the monument's stewardship. The publication of this management plan is a testament to the power of partnership and public engagement in achieving conservation goals.

"We are incredibly grateful for the dedication and expertise that superintendent Sean and ranger Jihan brought to this process," said Sheila Babauta, chair for the Friends of the Mariana Trench. "Their leadership, along with chair Floyd, NOAA, and our local government, has been instrumental in the development of a plan that will ensure the Mariana Trench remains a source of wonder and scientific discovery for generations to come."

The Friends are committed to supporting the implementation of the management plan and continuing to work alongside the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA, and other partners to promote the monument's ecological and cultural significance.

The final management plan was announced by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland at the Upwell conference in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument Management Plan, please visit NOAA Fisheries Resources or FWS.gov.

"The Mariana Trench monument

represents a significant step forward in ocean conservation, and it's a testament to what we can achieve when we come together for a greater purpose," said Laurie Peterka, executive director and co-founder of the Friends of the Mariana Trench. "As we celebrate the publication of the management plan, we're reminded of our responsibility to protect these unique ecosystems for future generations. This plan is not just a document; it's a blueprint for sustainable use and scientific exploration that will help us understand the mysteries of the deep and the role they play in the health of our planet."

"The youth are the bridge between the past and the future, and we do this for them," said Ignacio V. Cabrera, co-founder of the Friends of the Mariana Trench. "I'm excited our young people are taking up these challenges. I am ready to follow the leadership of superintendent Sean, ranger Jihan, and chair Floyd."

"This announcement is a critical step toward achieving effective management for huge swatches of protected waters in the United States and protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030," said Angelo Villagomez, Center for American Progress senior fellow and co-founder of the Friends of the Mariana Trench. "Our people have much to contribute to national conservation efforts and deserve a seat at the national table."

About Friends of the Mariana Trench

The Friends of the Mariana Trench formed in the Spring of 2008 to express the voice of the local community and consists of a cross-section of Indigenous and resident people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands who are dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and protection of flora, fauna and geological features of the oceans; and the proper management of the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. The organization received the 2009 EPA Environmental Award for its community outreach work supporting marine protected areas. (PR)

Cantor announces \$11M in grants for Guam, CNMI

TUMON, Guam—U.S. Department of the Interior’s Insular and International Affairs assistant secretary Carmen G. Cantor last week attended the Micronesia Islands Forum in Guam where the governors of Guam and the CNMI, the presidents of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the vice president of the Republic of Palau, along with other Micronesian island leaders, assembled to discuss regional issues related to workforce development, invasive species management, renewable energy, recycling, transportation, tourism, education, health-care, progress on the Micronesia Challenge (an intergovernmental conservation initiative), and gender equality. While in the territory, Cantor announced \$7,082,993 in Capital Improvement Project funding and \$2,590,500 in Technical Assistance Program

funding for Guam and \$1,587,001 in TAP funding for the CNMI. “This forum is an important opportunity to engage with Micronesian leaders on the most current and pressing topics of concern to the region,” said Cantor. “At the invitation of MIF-host Gov. Lourdes Leon Guerrero, I was pleased to meet with other island leaders and federal and multi-lateral partners in person where I also announced grant awards that will help address needs related to capital improvements, data development, public safety, training, and local capacity building.” While in Guam, Cantor met with Leon Guerrero and announced approximately \$9.5 million in combined CIP and TAP funds for the territory. She also met with CNMI Gov. Arnold Palacios to announce an initial award amount of approximately \$1.5 million in TAP grant awards for the CNMI from

the Office of Insular Affairs. Government of Guam projects that have been awarded CIP funding and total \$7,082,993 are as follows: ■ \$3,500,000 for the acquisition of a warehouse facility and collateral equipment necessary for its operations; ■ \$2,500,000 in supplemental funding for the construction of the Department of Youth Affairs Administrative Building; and ■ \$1,082,993 for the renovation of facilities at the Chamorro Village. ■ Guam projects that have been awarded TAP funding and total \$2,590,500 are as follows: ■ \$750,000 to the Bureau of Statistics and Plans for the Customs and Import Operations Modernization Project; ■ \$500,000 to the Office of Technology for the Zero Trust and Data Protection Project; ■ \$500,000 to the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials for the

Guam Interagency Business Process Improvement Program to Strengthen Administrative Capacity; ■ \$250,000 to Mañe’lu for the Micronesian Resource Center One-Stop Shop; ■ \$240,500 to the Guam Police Department for a Crime Scene Response Van to Enhance Law Enforcement Capabilities for Safer Communities; ■ \$185,000 to the Guam Fire Department for the Fire-fighter Personal Protective Equipment Project; ■ \$72,000 to the Department of Education for Internal Audit Office Training; ■ \$60,000 to Guam Community College for the 3rd Regional Forensic Science Symposium; and ■ \$33,000 to Guam Memorial Hospital for the Trauma Nursing Core Courses and the Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course Program. CNMI projects that have been awarded TAP funding and total \$1,587,001 are as **See CANTOR on Page 9**



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES (PHS)
MATERNAL, INFANT, CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROGRAMS (MICAH)
TITLE V MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

RFP24-CHCC/PHS/MICAH-018

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 21, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

RE-ANNOUNCEMENT
“NEED ASSESSMENT FOR MICAH PROGRAM”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY





NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-017	CDBG-DR Accountant (1-Position) <i>Re-Announcement</i>	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	May 24, 2024	Until Filled

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director





NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-018	CDBG-DR Housing Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	June 5, 2024	June 20, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

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/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director





COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport
“Car Rental Concessions”
Request for Proposals
for: CPA-RFP-006-24

CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-11
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-12
CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-13

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of three (3) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-006-24 is **May 20, 2024**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
“Car Rental Concessions”
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-004-24

CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-01
CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-02
CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-03
CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-04
CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-05
CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-06

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of six (6) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-004-24 is **May 20, 2024**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport
“Car Rental Concessions”
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for: CPA-RFP-005-24

CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-07
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-08
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-09
CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of four (4) concessions granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-005-24 is **May 20, 2024**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on June 21, 2024**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Yes, the economy is strong, but price pain is real. Biden should acknowledge it

“It’s the economy, stupid.” So declared Bill Clinton’s insurgent 1992 campaign, summing up the issue that would, more than any other, fuel his victory over President George H.W. Bush.

If the economy brings down President Joe Biden in similar fashion this year—recent polling ominously hints at history repeating itself—it will be especially ironic, given that virtually every indicator right now points to a strong, even remarkable post-pandemic economic recovery.

Biden and his supporters can rail at the unfairness of it all (that appears to be their current strategy) or they can recognize the two things going on here:

One, yes, much of the public has accepted a politically driven alternate reality in which inflation and unemployment are up (they’re actually way down), GDP growth, wages and the stock market are down (they are, respectively, up, up and at record highs) and America is in a recession (it’s not).

But, two, continued elevated prices for consumer goods—a different metric than the inflation rate—are in fact real and hitting Americans where they live. There’s not a lot that any president can do about that, but pretending it’s a figment of people’s imaginations is no answer.

Camp Biden is palpably frustrated that he’s getting no credit for the many things going right in the economy today, while being blamed for bad things that aren’t actually happening.

On that score, they’re not wrong. A particularly sobering recent Harris poll for The Guardian paints a picture of a nation deep in the grip of anti-factual negative delusions when it comes to just about every economic indicator there is.

The poll found that more than half the country believes the economy is shrinking, even though GDP (Gross Domestic Product), a central measure of economic growth, remains consistently up. Nearly 3 in 5 wrongly believe the U.S. is in a recession—a specific economic measure of declining growth that isn’t remotely applicable today.

On other issues, much of America believes things that aren’t merely untrue but are the polar opposite of true, based on undebatable data. The poll found that almost half the country believes the stock market is down, though the S&P 500 index went up by 24% last year and more than 12% (so far) this year.

Most startling is that almost half the country believes unemployment is at a 50-year high, when, at under 4%, it’s actually at a 50-year low.

Near-full employment is a huge success story of the post-pandemic economy, evidenced in real-world ways like “help wanted” signs everywhere and those long waits at understaffed restaurants. That so many Americans have an up-is-down view of even that ground-level issue says much about the psychological factors at play here.

This and other polls also indicate that Americans wrongly believe the inflation rate is rising. That rate has in fact fallen dramatically from its 2022 average of around 8% to less than half that today.

But that’s a more understandable misconception. And one that’s apparently at the core of Biden’s political problems on the economy.

The inflation rate is a measure of how quickly prices are rising. But when the inflation rate drops, as it has since the

See YES on Page 7



No, Chinese tourists and the PRC government are not the same

The ongoing tension between the United States and China has created a mistaken yet persistent belief that this is a zero-sum subject, that it is either one or the other, that one is either for the United States or for China. That, of course, is nonsense. The situation has more nuance to it than what is being made to appear.

Yes, I am no expert on geopolitics, nor am I privy to the military plans of either the Chinese or the U.S. governments and how the chess pieces of international politics are being played out, but I think we can all agree that politics at this rarefied level are not generally shared by the general population, who are more concerned with how to get food on the table. Once basic needs are being met, people usually want to travel for pleasure and the Chinese are no different.

It seems the problem is that many people conflate the Chinese government’s sometimes belligerent actions with that of the general Chinese population. This is stating the obvious, but they are rarely the same. The People’s Republic of China government and its military’s actions in the Indo-Pacific region have understandably put the U.S. military on the defensive—rightly so—and has prompted the U.S. government to position itself in a manner that will protect itself and its allies, but the perspective of the general population of China paints a far different picture.

As pointed out by Saipan Chamber of Commerce director Alex Sablan, the resumption of Hong Kong Airlines flights to Saipan is proof that there is a pent-up demand to travel in China, with the airline’s weekly flights bringing in more tourists than United Airlines’ thrice-weekly Japan flights. These tourists are even willing to transit through South Korea to get here!

This pent-up demand for travel is recognized by the U.S. government itself, with the U.S. Department of Commerce and China’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism jointly hosting the 14th U.S.-China Tourism Leadership Summit in Xi’an, China, last May 21-23, 2024.

The U.S. delegation was led by Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Analysis Grant T. Harris, and included representatives from Destination DC, Destination Niagara USA, Discover Puerto Rico, Guam Visitors Bureau, Hawaii Tourism Authority, Hilton Worldwide, International Inbound Travel Association, Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board, Marriott International, Mastercard, New York City Tourism + Conventions, San Francisco Travel Association, Travel Oregon, Travel South USA, U.S. Travel Association, Visa, Visit California, Visit San Diego, and Visit Seattle.

In his speech at the summit, Harris said that travel and tourism supports 9.5 million American jobs and that the summit is an important opportunity to further the Commerce Department’s mission to enhance the international competitiveness of the U.S. travel and tourism industry. He said the United States welcomed 66.5 million visitors in 2023, and these visitors spent \$213 billion. Thanks to this influx of visitors, the United States’ tourism industry is now 84% recovered compared to 2019 numbers. Yes, not all of them were Chinese tourists, but this market segment is known as one of the key drivers of the industry’s recovery.

“This summit underscores the importance of strengthening travel and tourism and people-to-people exchanges between our

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jayvee Vallejera is the former editor of the Saipan Tribune.



two countries,” Harris said. “Through our participation, we hope to see more Chinese visitors experience the United States, which will support jobs and economic growth in communities across the country.”

Sounds quite promising for the travel industry. Unfortunately, as matters stand now, that anticipated growth in Chinese tourism may as well skip the CNMI. The fact that the Guam Visitors Bureau was at the May summit in China speaks loudly about our southern neighbor’s welcoming stance as opposed to the CNMI government’s pronounced “pivot” away from Chinese tourists. As if alternative source markets are ripe for the picking at any time.

According to figures cited by Statista.com, tourists from China are one of the main drivers of the outbound tourism industry worldwide and ignoring that fact will only be perilous to the CNMI’s diminutive tourism industry. In 2019 alone, the number of outbound tourists from China reached nearly 155 million. That number did go down during the coronavirus pandemic, but has since recovered to more than 87 million in 2023 and is expected to top out at 130 million in 2024. Imagine that. Even if the CNMI is only able to tap just 0.5% of that outbound market, that will still be 650,000 tourists coming to our shores—more than enough to revive the deathly ill tourism industry of the CNMI.

Yes, yes, the CNMI government wants to develop another source market, on top of South Korea and Japan. But that has been a CNMI mantra for many years now, yet nothing of significance has come out of that yet. It is easier said than done and, although I am no expert on the travel industry, I imagine creating a new source market takes years to develop. In the meantime, what will the businesses that rely on tourists do to remain afloat while waiting for a new source market to be developed? It’s not like the CNMI has a large on-island population that can tide over these businesses until that fevered dream of a new source market happens.

With an 80-90% occupancy rate as the point when hotels can operate at a profit, the biggest and most pressing question that confronts the hotel industry is: Where are they going to get those number of tourists right now? For good or ill, the CNMI is located in a part of the globe that is nearer to Asia than North America. Nobody wants to get on long-haul flights just to go to a beach when they can find the same within a distance of less than two hours. Tourists in North America are more likely to head to the Caribbean or at most Puerto Rico if all they want is sun, surf, and sand.

So your best bet for enough number of tourists to visit the

See CHINESE on Page 7

Alito's Jan. 6 flag defense is just weird gender politics

Martha-Ann Alito lets her freak flag fly. And her husband, Justice Samuel Alito, can't do much about it, according to a letter he sent to two senators explaining why he won't recuse himself from cases related to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, when a mob tried to use violence to overturn the result of the 2020 presidential election.

Given that recusal is supposed to be based on whether a reasonable person knowing the facts would consider the judge biased, I think Alito made the wrong call. But I confess that I wish we lived in a more egalitarian world, where we could truly believe that the choice to fly the flags—an upside-down American flag (associated with election deniers) and an "Appeal to Heaven" flag (ditto)—belonged solely to his wife.

In his letter, the arch-conservative writes of Martha-Ann, "she makes her own decisions, and I have always respected her right to do so." If reading those words from the author of the majority opinion in the Dobbs case drives you into a frenzied condemnation of Alito's hypocrisy, I am not here to stand in your way.

But the letter, which can alternatively read not as fake feminism but as the lament of a disempowered husband, should not absolve us from asking the broader, more important question: How should we be thinking about the political opinions of the spouses or partners of the justices?

Although the letter presents itself as an answer to the legal question of whether recusal is appropriate, it quickly devolves into a fascinating congeries of tropes about how spouses interact.

With respect to the "Appeal to Heaven" flag, Alito's strategy is a terse explanation of the division of flag roles in his household: "My wife is fond of flying flags. I am not." (When he says

he didn't know what that flag meant, I believe him — I wasn't aware of its Jan. 6 connotations either, and I'm a news junkie and a history nerd.) He goes on to say that she has flown many, many different flags over the years: patriotic, local, ancestral, touristic, seasonal, and religious. The resigned tone smacks of a long-suffering husband's exasperation with his wife's design choices.

Regarding the upside-down American flag, Alito says first that he "had nothing whatsoever to do with the flying of the flag" and didn't even know it was there until it was "called [his] attention." Then he says: "As soon as I saw it, I asked my wife to take it down, but for several days, she refused." The almost rueful quality hints to male readers (like the two senators to whom the letter is addressed) that a man's wife doesn't always obey. Women!

But this implicit picture of a man trying—and failing—to tame his insubordinate shrew of a wife is complicated by Alito's reference to the "very nasty neighborhood dispute" that formed the backdrop to the raising of the upside-down flag. Neighbors displayed a sign that Mrs. Alito interpreted as a personal attack and (in front of the justice) called her "the vilest epithet that can be addressed to a woman," reportedly the c-word.

The gender politics are subtle here. Alito is effectively saying that after his wife was subject to a gendered verbal assault—which occurred in front of him, and which his job rendered him powerless to defend her from—he could hardly then require her to forego the public response she had chosen. Disabled by his professional role from protecting his wife according to (hetero-sexist) gender norms, Alito lacked the masculine standing to tell her that she must take the down her flag because of his career.

This brings us to the part of Alito's argument that actually is

By NOAH FELDMAN

Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of "To Be a Jew Today: A New Guide to God, Israel, and the Jewish People."



quasi-feminist, which is that his wife has both First Amendment rights and property rights of her own. Legally, he's right. But of course, the question isn't whether she has the right to fly the flags, but rather whether the flags could cause a reasonable person to think Justice Alito was biased in cases related to Jan. 6.

On that question, the best egalitarian answer isn't completely clear. On the one hand, marriage is a partnership, and the law has long treated spouses as one legal entity. On the other, equal partners should be able to pursue their own life paths without everyone assuming that they agree with each other—and without assuming that one partner has veto power over the views the other expresses, even from the flagpole of the family home.

If you ask me, we would be better off admitting that we don't always understand what's going on inside anyone's relationship with respect to roles, practices and power. As a default, we should treat couples as distinct people with distinct points of view. If Justice Alito wants to stand up for a woman's right to choose her flag, it might make him a hypocrite. But it doesn't make him wrong.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Commonwealth in demise

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and his advisors are currently conducting a fire sale of the CNMI Commonwealth to the United States military. His policies and actions depend on a strategy that relies on growing Chinese-American conflict. With no short-term economic plan, this administration's bet is to reduce the CNMI into a minor American military outpost, whose livelihood is completely reliant on the United States' whim, and essentially abandon CNMI's traditionally one and only livelihood—tourism, on which businesses and residents have made a living on since the founding of the CNMI.

A policy focused on combating corruption is admirable, but it must be wholly separate and secondary to a realistic and pragmatic economic policy. In granting the CNMI's one-of-a-kind China visa waiver, federal officials stated that this waiver was granted in order for the CNMI to derive "significant economic" benefit by allowing for Chinese nationals to visit the CNMI for up to 14 days of business and/or pleasure. Instead of utilizing this significant advantage over main competitor Guam, this administration has chosen a deliberate path that offers no way to resolve the current economic crisis. Solely blaming China and the former Torres administration for corruption and financial quagmire, the Palacios administration ignores that it takes two to tango: the administration fails to call on the need for politicians and its government officials to uphold their duty with absolute integrity and the obvious need to effectively enforce local laws from start to finish.

Indeed, legacy tourist businesses such as the Hyatt Regency Saipan and Asiana Airlines have abruptly left. First Hawaiian Bank, a business which indicates the health of the economy, is

closing its Gualo Rai branch. Local residents and foreign workers alike are leaving the CNMI because there is simply no way to survive. These trends evidence a troubling truth: this administration forgets that its primary duty lies with the Commonwealth and her people—not the United States. The CNMI leadership and its politicians have been too insulated and detached from reality to realize her people desperately need to put food on the table.

Critically, this administration fails to realize that the greatest strength of the Northern Mariana Islands and her people is its unique political relationship as a commonwealth with the United States. Indeed, while the United States holds ultimate authority over security, foreign policy, immigration, and citizenship, the CNMI enjoys substantial autonomy over taxation, land use, and local business regulations. The forefathers of the CNMI intentionally created this relationship to underscore the importance of local self-governance and maximize the CNMI's welfare and leverage to conduct business.

The United States holds ultimate military authority across the globe in the name of self-defense. Indeed, Gov. Palacios and his advisors' only strategy is to receive federal handouts by publicly restating what the United States government already exercises autonomy over: the CNMI's foreign policy. Instead, the Palacios administration must adopt the policy of self-governance and economic resilience. Any future progression of a Chinese-American conflict will only augment the CNMI's leverage because it will naturally and certainly cause the United States to come to the table to offer the CNMI financial assistance. Therefore, this administration should instead play hard-ball with the United States to leverage its strategic location and political relationship as a Commonwealth rather than turning belly-up for help from

an unpopular Biden administration in its reelection year.

Policies and actions that produce unprecedented, consequential damage require extreme policies and actions to mitigate damage. As such, Gov. Palacios should solely focus all its attention on countering the collapsing tourism industry in the short-term and tackle failing long-standing domestic policies such as Article 12, which has, for decades, regardless of national origin, encouraged foreign businesses to gamble on CNMI during good times and abandon the CNMI during hardship. Whether it be to amend Article 12 to allow longtime residents and/or businesses in Garapan core or other critical districts of the CNMI to take ownership of property, this administration must do things differently in a radical way to encourage immediate, long-term, and reliable investments in order to avoid collapsing the Commonwealth into a valueless, destitute colony of the United States.

In the face of this unprecedented crisis, any policy that does not address the immediate economic needs of the CNMI is unwise and alarming. This administration's current policy is posturing the CNMI in a weak position to limp into 902 consultations with the United States. The CNMI is potentially seeing a real-life scenario with an abandoned tourism industry and the dim hope that the CNMI may someday be turned into an alternative military parking lot of the United States in case of a war with China. Without urgently working on a viable and realistic short-term solution to revive the CNMI's ability to stand on its own two feet, there could soon be no Commonwealth left to govern.

John Lee

Via email

CHINESE

From page 6

CNMI is not the United States or countries in North America but countries in Asia. Right now, many Southeast Asian countries are drawing in visitors from South Korea and China. In fact, some countries have implemented 30-day visa-free travel for Chinese visitors, including Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. That is where the EVS-TAP program comes in, where the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security will first screen all visitors from China before they could fly to the CNMI.

As former CNMI Chief Justice Jose S. Dela Cruz stated in a June 3, 2024, column in this newspaper, DHS itself will ensure that no "untoward" persons from China masquerading as good-faith visitors to the CNMI will be allowed entry into the CNMI. A word of caution, though: Doesn't that just give it a slight whiff of McCarthyism and "yellow peril" fearmongering? With the Chinese government's heavy-handed actions lately, I totally understand where this stricter process for Chinese visitors comes

from but it will be up to DHS to find a balance that secures the CNMI while providing a lifeline to its sputtering economy.

Commerce's Harris said it plainly: "More travel and tourism between the United States and China will create jobs and grow the economies of both our countries and foster mutual understanding of our people."

Enough said.

See Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Analysis Grant T. Harris' complete speech at this link.

YES

From page 6

inflationary spike of 2022, it doesn't mean the prices people are paying for things come down — only that they're going up more slowly than they were before.

That's the right trend, but is of little comfort to Americans who have seen the cumulative prices of goods rise by around 20%, in all, during Biden's tenure. Pointing out that those prices aren't rising as fast as they were doesn't make that bite any less painful at the gas pump or grocery store checkout aisle.

There's little doubt that the trillions that Biden spent through his American Rescue Plan and pandemic rescue programs con-

tributed to the inflationary spike two years ago that is still echoing through Americans' pocketbooks.

But contrary to partisan myth-making, that spending wasn't the main factor. The inevitable global disruptions of the pandemic were a far greater inflationary driver, evidenced by the fact that the inflation surge was global. And Biden's cash infusions into the economy definitely helped stave off the recession that everyone expected but that never materialized.

For all the negativity on the issue, America's economy today is in far better shape than most of its peer nations. And what little Biden can actually do to bring down prices, he's doing—such as his recent announcement that he will release 1 million barrels of gasoline from a Northeast reserve to nudge down pump prices.

Former President Donald Trump has, of course, lied prodi-

giously on this issue, to the point of claiming, ludicrously, that Biden's low unemployment numbers are fake.






Rather than pick through Trump's mountains of disinformation, voters should simply consider his stated economic policy for a second term: new tariff wars with trading partners, which inevitably drive up prices for American consumers, and more tax cuts for the rich, which help ... the rich.

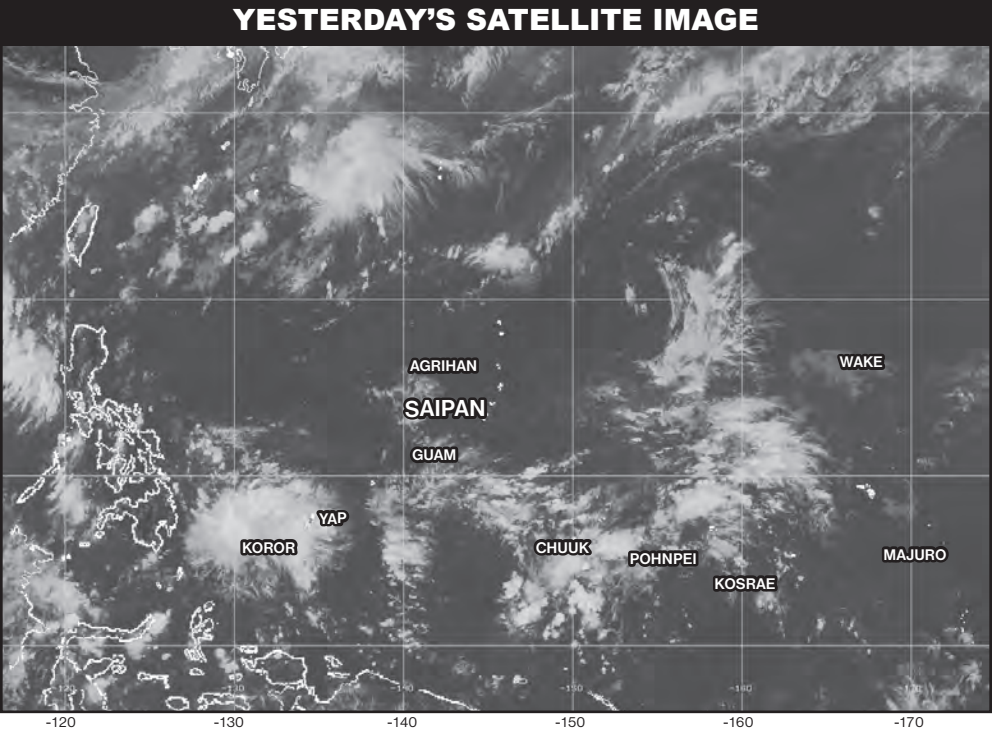
It's more than fair for Biden to point all that out, and to take credit where it's due for his own economic achievements.

But on the issue of higher prices, he'd be wise to take another cue from Clinton, who famously felt Americans' pain. That pain today is real. America would give Biden points for acknowledging it more forthrightly than he so far has.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 6:29 AM SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle trades prevail in the region. Satellite imagery indicates some shallow clouds lingering over the coastal waters. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are 4 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:54 AM	10:15 PM	-
Tuesday	9:49 AM	10:56 PM	-
Wednesday	10:40 AM	11:33 PM	-
Thursday	11:28 AM	-	-
Friday	-	12:08 AM	12:14 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	62° / 49°	
Beijing	Fair	93° / 68°	
Hong Kong	Light Rain Shower	82° / 75°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°	
London	Mostly Sunny	77° / 59°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 60°	
Manila	Rain	89° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	56° / 44°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Osaka	Cloudy	82° / 68°	
Paris	Showers	86° / 64°	
Busan	Sunny	74° / 65°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	85° / 58°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	83° / 63°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	82° / 69°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 66°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:49 AM	Low Tide	1.49	
8:53 AM	High Tide	1.88	
4:39 PM	Low Tide	-0.09	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024				
DEPARTURES				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				
HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5	

ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily	
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7	
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM				
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily	
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau	
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5	
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam	
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam	
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily	
INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN				
7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily	
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily	
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily	
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.						
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024						
SAIPAN TO ROTA						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily	
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily	
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily	
ROTA TO SAIPAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily	
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday	
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday	
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily	
ROTA TO GUAM						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday	
GUAM TO ROTA						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily	
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily	
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily	
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily	
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily	
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily	
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily	
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily	
TINIAN TO SAIPAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily	
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily	
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily	
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily	
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily	
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily	
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily	
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily	

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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CANTOR

From page 5

follows:

■ \$208,720 to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for C-arm Fluoroscopy Medical Imaging Equipment;

■ \$207,217 to the Office of Grants Management for Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Planning;

■ \$207,027 to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority for the Pilot Project: Demand Responsive Shared Ride Program for Rota and Tinian;

■ \$150,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation for Hydraulic Model Support for Saipan;

■ \$149,242 to the Saipan Municipal Government for the 80th Anniversary Commemoration of WWII Battles on Saipan and Tinian;

■ \$140,000 to the Department of Finance for Revenue Management Information System Software and Equipment Support;

■ \$136,105 to the Office of Grants Management for the Tinian and Rota Street Address and Home Numbering Project;

■ \$111,595 to the Northern Islands Municipal Government for the Northern Islands Digital Connectivity Project;

■ \$97,725 to the Department of Public Lands for the Agricultural Homestead Program: Land Surveying Initiative in the Northern Islands;

■ \$88,000 to the Office of Grants Management for the Second Year of the Federal Grants Enhancement Program;

■ \$77,063 to the Com-

monwealth Ports Authority for the Rota Telescopic Conveyor Belt Acquisition Project; and

■ \$14,307 to the Department of Labor for Protecting Due Process by Maintaining Trained Hearing Officials.

Cantor will next travel to Hawai'i to attend the opening ceremonies for the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture, the world's largest celebration of Indigenous Pacific Islanders.

The Assistant Secretary-Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the Secretary of the Interior's respon-

sibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. Find information about OIA and its work on www.doi.gov/oia, Facebook, X, and YouTube. (PR)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: June 10, 2024 CLOSING DATE: June 25, 2024 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2024-014	Human Resources (HR) Manager/Executive Assistant	\$40,000.00 - \$45,000.00 per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be obtained at the NMHC Central Office Reception.

Applicants may submit their applications at the NMHC Central Office Reception in Garapan, Saipan or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
ZENIE P. MAFNAS
Deputy Corporate Director

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of] FCD-GU CIVIL
the Petition for] ACTION NO.
the Appointment] 24-0138
of General]
Guardianship for:] NOTICE OF
] HEARING
D.J.S.N.P.]
Minor Child(ren)]
By:]
Catherine Elisa]
Teregevo San]
Nicolas-Ada]
Petitioner(s)]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on June 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m./p.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 8th day of April, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1178 Hinemlu' St., Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application packet at the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office located on Upper Navy Hill, 11546 Isla Drive. The application acceptance period is from May 1, 2024 through June 14, 2024, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or vendors may request for an application through email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program Administration Office no later than 4:00 pm, June 14, 2024.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information packet provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to Fabian M. Ulloa, WIC Program Coordinator, at (670) 664-4067 or (670) 285-4073 or by email at fabian.ulloa@chcc.health.

PO BOX 502509, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 664-4067 Fax: (670) 664-4069
USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-026

CUSTOMIZED SEWER LINE INSPECTION & GROUTING TRUCK ACQUISITION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified Vendors for the Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The IFB Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-24-026, Customized Sewer Line Inspection & Grouting Truck Acquisition" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 3, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal, or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time or post-marked before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this IFB should consider all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the proponent's obligation upon award of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bidders for any reason and to waive any defects in said IFB, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



GIVE YOUR FAMILY A HEALTHY START



How can WIC help my family?

- Nutrition counseling
- Breastfeeding support
- Healthy foods
- Referrals

Who is eligible?

- Pregnant/Breastfeeding/Postpartum women (up to 1 year)
- Infants
- Children under the age of five (5)
- Meet nutritional risk and financial guidelines. (See table below)

A pregnant woman is considered two (2) family members!

WIC Income Eligibility Table by Family Size (Effective May 1, 2024)

Family members in household	Yearly household income	Monthly household income	Twice-Monthly household income	Bi-Weekly household income	Weekly household income
1	\$27,861	\$2,322	\$1,161	\$1,072	\$536
2	37,814	3,152	1,576	1,455	728
3	47,767	3,981	1,991	1,838	919
4	57,720	4,810	2,405	2,220	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	2,820	2,603	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	3,235	2,986	1,493
7	87,579	7,299	3,650	3,369	1,685
8	97,532	8,128	4,064	3,752	1,876
Each additional member add	+\$9,953	+\$830	+\$415	+\$383	+\$192

Notes: All WIC Income Eligibility Guidelines are based on GROSS income, meaning before taxes or other deductions. A person or certain family members who participate in other benefit programs, such as the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) or Medicaid, automatically meet the income requirement.

Call us at (670) 664-4084 or (670) 236-8741 to make an appointment!

www.chcc.health

This AD is funded by USDA 202424W100347

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Business

Crowne Plaza celebrates Pride Month with Pride Marianas



Staff at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Market Place.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is excited to announce its active participation in Pride Month this June. In collaboration with Pride Marianas, Crowne Plaza Saipan is dedicated to supporting and advocating for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in the Northern Mariana Islands. Pride Month is celebrated globally throughout IHG hotels and resorts. Additionally,

as a part of IHG's #Room-toBelong initiative, celebrating Pride Month supports the ambition to create an inclusive culture where everyone can thrive. As a part of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's effort in creating Room to Belong, it has partnered with Pride Marianas, a local nonprofit organization that plans and implements programs, resources, and safe spaces for the queer community of the CNMI. At

the heart of this partnership is the Market Place located in the Resort. Throughout June, for every coffee purchased at Market Place, Crowne Plaza will donate \$1 to Pride Marianas. This donation will contribute to their essential programs, resources, and events.



Throughout June, for every coffee purchased at Market Place, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan will donate \$1 to Pride Marianas. This donation will contribute to their essential programs, resources, and events.

"We are honored to stand with Pride Marianas and contribute to their mission and efforts in the local community," said general manager Clayton Darlington. "In alignment with Pride Marianas' initiatives, our goal at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is to nur-

ture an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome and supported." Join us in celebrating Pride Month and supporting the 2SLGBTQIA+ community by visiting Market Place at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and purchasing a delicious

cup of coffee. Together, we can make a positive impact and promote inclusivity in our community. For more information and updates, follow us on social media, Instagram and Facebook @crowneplazaresort-saipan. (PR)

Chamber commends Palacios for initiating Section 902 talks

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce commends Gov. Arnold I. Palacios for writing to President Joseph R. Biden Jr. on April 26, 2024 to initiate consultations between the CNMI and the U.S. pursuant to Section 902 of the CNMI-U.S. Covenant. This important first step demonstrates Palacios' commitment to addressing critical issues affecting the relationship between the CNMI and the United States. The Chamber is in full support of the governor's list of priority issues which include direct financial assistance; tourism and infrastructure; and access to skilled labor. "Similar to past Section 902 consultations, the Chamber stands ready to support Gov. Palacios and the CNMI delegation, including House and Senate leaders," said Chamber president Joe C. Guerrero.

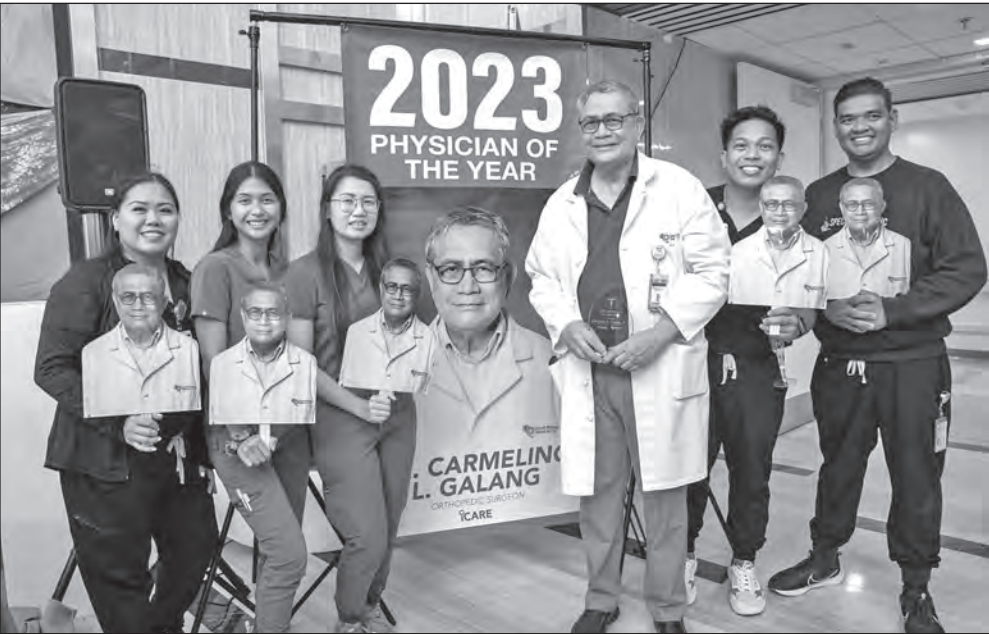


Guerrero

commitment to working with his administration to advocate for CNMI interests to ensure that our community's needs and aspirations are effectively presented. "We strongly believe that engagement with the United States through Section 902 will bring significant benefits to our islands, fostering economic development, improving infrastructure, and enhancing the overall quality of life for all our residents. As a collective voice of the business community, the Chamber is excited and looks forward to working with Gov. Palacios toward achieving meaningful outcomes for our Marianas," added Guerrero. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a CNMI nonprofit organization consisting of over 120 members from various industries and all business sizes. SCC serves its members as a resource and advocate enhancing the quality of business and life on Saipan. (PR)

GRMC recognizes Dr. Galang as 2023 Physician of the Year

DEDEDO, Guam—Guam Regional Medical City proudly announced the recipient of its 2023 Physician of the Year award at a ceremony held in the hospital's 1st floor lobby last March 28. Each year, the GRMC employees select a physician who exemplifies GRMC's iCARE values: innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect, and excellence. This year's distinguished awardee is orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Carmelino Galang. The announcement of Galang's selection was met with enthusiasm as his photo was unveiled on a pull-down banner during the Physician of the Year event, attended by numerous staff and physicians. The award was presented to Galang by GRMC CEO Dr. Alexander "Beau" Wielaard and chief human resources officer Charlotte Huntsman. Galang achieved a decisive victory, receiving over 100 votes more than the second-place candidate, in a pool of over 100 physicians at GRMC. In his emotional acceptance speech, Galang expressed his surprise and gratitude for the honor, attributing his success to the unwavering support of his colleagues, support staff, and patients. He emphasized the pivotal role of teamwork in achieving excellence in patient care, stating, "We are nothing



Guam Regional Medical City Physician of the Year Dr. Carmelino Galang, third from right, with his team.

without our patients." Wielaard commended Galang's longstanding commitment and invaluable contributions to GRMC, remarking, "Dr. Galang has been an integral part of our team since the inception of GRMC. He epitomizes the core values of our organization and serves as a driving force in our mission to deliver exceptional healthcare. We are immensely grateful for his dedication." Galang is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon with over 35 years of experience in treating a wide range of orthopedic conditions, including joint re-

placements, arthroscopic knee surgery, and orthopedic trauma. Prior to joining GRMC, Galang served on the orthopedic staff at various renowned medical institutions, including San Joaquin General Hospital in California, Kaiser Permanente in Hawaii, VA Medical Center in Virginia, and Littleton Regional Hospital in New Hampshire. Galang's extensive medical education includes a medical degree from the University of the Philippines. Following this, he underwent a surgical internship at the Hurley Medical Center and residency train-

ing at Wayne State University, both located in Michigan. He furthered his training by completing his Orthopedic Surgery Fellowship at The Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation in Louisiana. He is certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery and holds licenses to practice in Guam, California, Virginia, and the Philippines. The recognition of Galang as the 2023 Physician of the Year marks the third consecutive year of GRMC's esteemed awards ceremony, celebrating excellence in healthcare leadership and service. (PR)

Life & Style

Pat Sajak says goodbye to ‘Wheel of Fortune’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After 41 years and over 8,000 episodes, Pat Sajak made his final turn as the renowned host of “Wheel of Fortune” on Friday.

The season 41 finale, dubbed the “Thanks for the memories” show, opened with a clip from Sajak’s first episode as the host of “Wheel of Fortune” in 1981 and closed with Sajak’s warm message of gratitude.

In his farewell message, Sajak thanked the viewers of the beloved game show for granting him the “incredible privilege to be invited into millions of homes, night after night, year after year, decade after decade.”

Sajak, 77, also gave a heartfelt thanks to his “professional other half,” Vanna White, who has co-hosted with him for over 40 years and delivered her emotional tribute to Sajak a day earlier.

“We’ve seen a lot of change



AP
Pat Sajak, left, and Vanna White, from “Wheel of Fortune,” attend a ceremony honoring Harry Friedman with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles on Nov. 1, 2019.

have been working on the show as long as he has, were a “joy” to work with. “Your skills and dedication and good humor made this a place I always wanted to be,” he added.

Sajak thanked one staff member by name: his daughter Maggie. She began working as the show’s social correspondent in 2021 and he said their collaboration has been the “best part of the last couple of years.” Sajak also mentioned his son, Patrick, and his wife, Lesly, and said that he is “blessed” to have his family.

The famed host also said that the “real stars of the show” have been the contestants who competed for cash and luxury prizes throughout the decades of the show’s run. He called them “kind and considerate,”

noting that they always “took great pride in talking about their family, their hometown, their friends, their schools, their jobs, even their pets.”

Reflecting on the show’s massive reach, Sajak noted that he always found it important to keep the daily half-hour show a “safe place for family fun,” excluding any social issues or political topics from the banter he shared with contestants and White. He said he wanted to keep the show “just a game,” before noting that to many, it became a part of their daily lives.

“Gradually, it became more than that,” Sajak continued. “A place where kids learned their letters, where people from other countries honed their English skills, where families came together along with friends and neighbors and entire generations. What an honor to have played even a small part in all that.”

Tyson’s fight with Paul has been rescheduled for Nov. 15 after Tyson’s health episode

Mike Tyson’s fight with Jake Paul is now set for Nov. 15 after the former world heavy-weight champion fell ill on a flight last month.

The fight was originally set for July 20 in Arlington, Texas, home to the NFL’s Dallas Cowboys, and will be aired on Netflix.

Tyson became nauseous and dizzy during the final hour of a flight from Miami to Los Angeles. His plane was met by first responders, while Tyson’s camp attributed the episode to an ulcer problem and said he would need to do light training for several weeks.

Tyson turns 58 on June 30.

“Although we had to postpone the fight, I will resume training shortly. I am thankful to the medical staff that treated me and to MVP, Netflix, and AT&T Stadium for working diligently to find the best reschedule date for all parties,” Tyson said in a statement released by

Netflix. “While we have a new date, the result will be the same no matter when we fight. Jake Paul is getting knocked out.”

The fight was originally slated for a Saturday, but will be held on a Friday as the Cowboys prepare to host the Houston Texans on Nov. 18 for Monday Night Football.

“Our team has worked diligently with all parties involved to reschedule this monumental fight to a date that ensures both Jake Paul and Mike Tyson are fully prepared, with equal training time, as well as allowing us to keep the event at AT&T stadium in the midst of the Cowboys season,” said Nakisa Bidarian, co-founder of Most Valuable Promotions.

Tyson hasn’t fought professionally since June 2005, but he has been training regularly for several years. He fought Roy Jones Jr. in an entertaining exhibition in Los Angeles in November 2020. (AP)

es in each other’s lives over the years, but we’ve always been there for each other,” he said. “I will miss our nightly closes and her laughter and her good nature. She’s a very special woman.”

Among the many thanks and shoutouts Sajak offered during the final episode before his retirement, he said the crew and staff, some of whom

Van Dyke becomes oldest Daytime Emmy winner at age 98 for guest role on ‘Days of Our Lives’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dick Van Dyke has won a historic Daytime Emmy at age 98.

The actor was honored Friday night as guest performer in a daytime drama series for his part as amnesiac Timothy Robicheaux on Peacock’s “Days of Our Lives,” making him the oldest Daytime Emmy winner.

“I don’t believe this. I feel like a spy from nighttime television,” he said. “I’m 98 years old. Can you believe it? This really tops off a lifetime of 80 years in the business. If I had known I would have lived this long I would’ve taken better care of myself.”

“General Hospital” won four trophies, including its



AP
Dick Van Dyke accepts the award for outstanding guest performance in a daytime drama series for “Days of our Lives” during the 51st Daytime Emmy Awards on Friday, June 7, 2024, at the Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles.

fourth consecutive honor as best daytime drama. It’s the second time in the ABC show’s 61-year history that it won four daytime drama trophies in a row.

Robert Gossett of “General Hospital” won supporting actor honors. The first cousin to the late Oscar-winning actor Louis Gossett Jr. was honored for the second straight year for

his role as Marshall Ashford.

“General Hospital” also won the directing and writing categories.

Thorsten Kaye of “The Bold and the Beautiful” earned his second straight lead actor win for playing Ridge Forrester.

“I got to be very honest. I don’t like award shows. I didn’t like award shows until tonight,” he said.

Wife has no plans to join husband's family business

DEAR ABBY: My husband’s family won’t stop asking me when I’m going to quit my job and work for my husband. My mother-in-law worked for my father-in-law at their small business for pretty much her whole career. My husband recently bought his dad’s business, which is going really well.

I have been ambitious in my own career, and I’m climbing the ladder at my corporate job. I adore my husband and we are both extremely proud of each other’s careers. My salary equals what his company pulls in for revenue. We agree that I’m going to follow my own career path and that it would negatively impact our lifestyle if I quit my job.

How do I politely say to people that I’m not quitting my job without sounding like an unsupportive wife or full of myself?

SURE OF MY DIRECTION

DEAR SURE: Assume that your in-laws mean well when they ask that question. When they inquire, smile and reply that you have no plans to retire, and your husband is in full agreement that you should continue on your career path. Then change the subject.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: A woman I’ve known and been friends with for 40 years has gradually changed. She has developed some health problems, and whenever she calls me, all she talks about

are her ailments and treatments.

When we manage to discuss other things, she turns the subject to her political views, which are different from mine. I try to be noncommittal or change the subject, but it’s getting harder and harder. I now cringe when I see her caller ID.

She has other friends, so I don’t know why she dumps this stuff on me. I feel our friendship has run its course, and I’d like to end it with as little pain as possible. How can I do that?

USED UP IN FLORIDA

DEAR USED UP: That shouldn’t be too difficult. The next time you talk and she raises the subject of politics, speak up and tell her you not only don’t agree but plan to vote for the candidate from the opposite political party. I’ll bet she drops you like a hot potato.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been slowly slogging through grad school, one course per semester. And now, after four long years, I’m finally going to graduate. I work in the industry I’m going to school for, and I’d like to invite some of my co-workers out to dinner to celebrate. While I’d love to foot the bill for everyone, I’m not financially able to do so.

How can I tactfully word the invitation so everyone knows I’m inviting them to a dinner, not treating them to one? I don’t

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

want anyone to be embarrassed due to assumed expectations.

READY TO CELEBRATE

DEAR READY: A “formal” invitation may not be the way to go. Because this will be a casual no-host affair, there might be less confusion if you simply call your co-workers and explain you’d like to get together if they’re interested in celebrating with you.

■■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



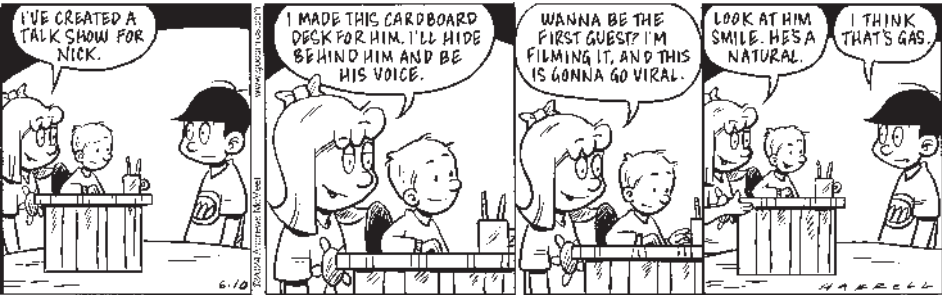
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



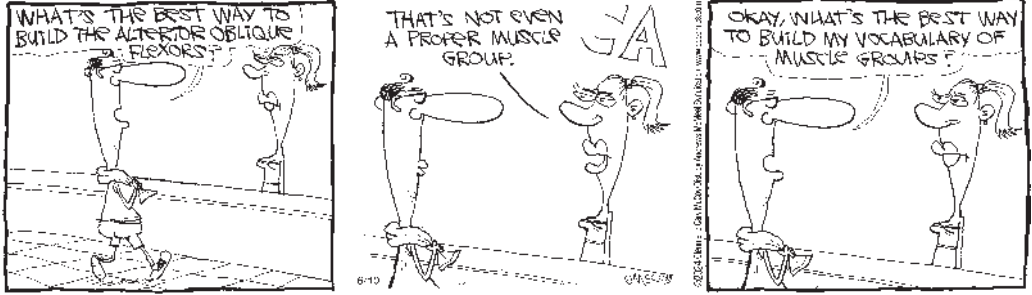
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Hunny" bear
5 Telly network
8 Hindu deity
12 Roof edge
13 Football filler
14 Yale students
15 Curds' partner
16 Capone's nickname
18 Cherry-topped treat
20 Old British coin
21 Priests' garments
23 JFK info
24 Youthful countenance
28 Thick chunk
31 Wall St. debut
32 Fake name
34 Parched
35 Arrears

DOWN

1 Church furniture
2 Pearl Harbor site
3 Pizza cooker
4 Time of prosperity
5 The National
6 Pen name
7 Rocky outcrop
8 Equips anew
9 "M*A*S*H" star
10 Rats' kin
11 Cruising
17 Regret
19 —
22 Offspring
24 Auction action
25 Mimic
26 Hair accessory
27 Beach paperback, often
29 Curved line
30 "Adios!"
33 Antitoxins
36 Natural gift
38 Wood-land
40 Dict. info
42 Hearty dish
43 Beginner
44 Droops
46 Cook-book legend
47 Wedding cake layer
48 Ever-greens
50 Financial pro

Solution time: 21 mins.

Last Friday's answer 6-10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18			19			20				
		21		22		23				
24	25	26			27		28		29	30
31			32			33		34		
35		36		37			38			
	39		40		41					
42	43			44		45		46	47	48
49				50			51			
52				53			54			
55				56			57			

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kate Upton, 32; Leelee Sobieski, 41; Shane West, 46; DJ Qualls, 46.

Happy Birthday: If you look on the bright side, you'll learn something about yourself and those you encounter. A positive attitude will deter unnecessary arguments and keep you proactive in making headway and connections. Refuse to let what others choose impact you negatively or stop you from reaching your goal. Discipline, focus and putting your energy where it brings the highest return will pay off. Choose your battles. Your numbers are 3, 14, 21, 24, 35, 37, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take on an exciting venture; physical activity or making a difference will offer satisfaction and put you front and center when trying to make an impression. A change to how you manage your money will lead to financial freedom. Disciplined spending will pay off. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be careful who you trust. Someone will try to outmaneuver or pressure you into something that isn't in your best interest. Be cautious of scammers. Question everything and everyone trying to separate you from your cash. Keep your money, passwords and personal information private. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Pay attention to your surroundings and make changes to encourage a manageable lifestyle. Adjustments that improve productivity and enhance how you feel about your life will make a difference in how you approach your day. Take advantage of an opportunity to expand your interests, friendships or skills. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change may be necessary to advance professionally. Keeping up with technology or adopting new methods will help you protect

against falling behind. Initiate what you want instead of waiting for someone else to step in and take over. Avoid situations that can cause sorrow or setbacks. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Participate in functions that offer insight into new possibilities. Get the lowdown, but don't buy into someone else's dream. By putting yourself first, you'll discover a path that leads to your good fortune instead of paving the way for someone else to benefit. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may desire a change, but question, research and determine the pros and cons first. An offer will fall short of your expectations, leaving you vulnerable. Don't get caught in someone else's misfortune. Offer insight, but don't take on something that isn't your responsibility. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An open mind will help you overcome fear and encourage you to bring about positive change. Participation will enhance your awareness and offer insight into something that can enrich your life. Traveling, learning and expanding your interests are favored. Make learning a priority. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Use common sense. Refuse to let impulse cost you emotionally or financially. Walk away from pressure tactics and arguments. You can't put a price on peace of mind. Proceed with caution, and don't be afraid to walk away. Protect against physical and financial mishaps. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Look at the big picture, but don't feel obligated to agree to or join something that doesn't appeal to you or fit your budget. A partnership will lead to difficulties due to differences in beliefs, lack of equality and the distribution of funds. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Channel your energy into what has meaning and purpose. Putting accomplishments behind you will ease your mind and make a difference in how much you save. Refrain from doing what others want you to do; look out for your interests and follow your instincts. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Explore the possibilities and expand your projects at home. The changes you make, how you use your space or how you open doors to new activities and friendships will enhance your disposition and encourage you to embrace physical and mental upgrades. Romance is in the stars. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A chance to make a change will grab your attention, but before you act, consider the investment of time and cost. Don't take on anything that will disrupt your life or cause you to lose sight of your responsibilities. ***

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, entertaining and compassionate. You are proactive and versatile.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Friday's Answer



Difficulty: ★ 6/10
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WORSHIPPING THE SUN Solution: 6 letters



© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndicate www.wonderword.com 6/10
Aimed, Arch, Bright, Celebrate, Celestial, Comet, Connection, Creation, Dance, Dawn, Deity, Divine, Dusk, Eclipse, Energy, Fire, Force, Harvest, Heaven, Horizon, Illuminate, Life, Meteorite, Moon, Motif, Myth, Nature, Neolithic, Orbit, Pagan, Pantheon, Planets, Power, Ritual, Season, Soul, Space, Star, Strength, Tribute, Universe, Wealth, Wisdom
Last Friday's answer: Market
The NEW Volume 77 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Phillies win Game 1 of the London Series 7-2 over the Mets



LONDON (AP)—Bryce Harper celebrated with a soccer slide after his tying home run, Ranger Suárez became the season's first 10-game winner and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the New York Mets 7-2 on Saturday in the opener of Major League Baseball's third London Series.

After Harper sparked the four-run sixth, Whit Merrifield hit a three-run homer for the major league-best Phillies, who have won four in a row and seven of eight. Harper was a triple shy of the cycle.

Nick Castellanos added an eighth-inning homer and watched from the batter's box until he knew it was inside the left-field foul pole at London Stadium, home of the Premier League club West Ham.

Suarez (10-1) allowed two runs and eight hits in 5 2/3 innings for the Phillies, who played their first game outside North America. Philadelphia manager Rob Thomson got his 200th regular-season win (200-137).

After Starling Marte's RBI double in the first, Harper pulled a sweeper from Sean Manaea (3-3) over the Mets bullpen in right. The two-time NL MVP then did a soccer slide in front of the Phillies dugout and moments later yelled "I love soccer!" while high-fiving teammates.

Harper has a team-high 15 homers and the Phillies are 22-0 when Harper has an RBI.

NATIONALS 7, BRAVES 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nick Senzel homered for the first time in nearly six weeks and drove in three runs, Eddie Rosario had three RBIs against his former team and Washington defeated Atlanta Braves.

Washington won consecutive games for the first time since May 29-30, when it also beat the Braves on back-to-back days. The Nationals are 5-2 against Atlanta this season.

Sean Murphy homered for the Braves, who have dropped three of four to fall a season-high nine games behind Philadelphia in the NL East standings.

Senzel, who had three hits, helped produce runs in each of his first three plate appearances. He led off the second with a double off Charlie Morton (3-3) and scored on CJ Abrams' two-out single, then drove in Luis García Jr. in the fourth to make it 4-0.

BLUE JAYS 7, ATHLETICS 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Kevin Gausman pitched the first shutout of his 12-year career, a five-hitter, and Toronto beat Oakland.

A two-time All-Star who had never thrown a nine-inning complete game in the majors, the 33-year-old Gausman matched his season high of 10 strikeouts and walked one. The right-hander threw 109 pitches, his fourth time this season topping the century mark.

GIANTS 3, RANGERS 1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Heliot Ramos drove in all the runs for San Francisco and put them ahead to stay with his two-run homer in a victory over Texas.



Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper, center, celebrates with teammates after defeating the New York Mets in a London Series baseball game in London, Saturday, June 8, 2024.

The Giants, who won three World Series titles with Bruce Bochy from 2010-14, have taken the first two games for a series victory against their former manager, who came out of a three-year retirement and led Texas to its first championship last season.

After Austin Slater drew a leadoff walk to start the game, Ramos drove him in with a double. The game was tied at 1 in the third before Slater hit a one-out single and Ramos followed with his sixth homer—and 17th hit in a span of 40 at-bats.

PIRATES 4, TWINS 0

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Rowdy Tellez homered and drove in three runs and six Pittsburgh relievers kept the Twins in check as they beat Minnesota.

Tellez, who has been frequently booed at home of late while in the throes of a season-long funk, turned on a changeup from Simeon Woods Richardson (2-1) and dropped it just over the center-field wall with one out in the seventh for his first homer since March 31.

The crowd that jeered Tellez when he was introduced before the game-turning at bat then asked for a curtain call. Tellez, who signed a one-year deal with the Pirates in the offseason, obliged after boosting on a day his batting average rose to .208.

The first baseman added a two-run single in the ninth to provide some breathing room as the Pirates won for the fourth time in five games.

REDS 4, CUBS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—TJ Friedl homered and drove in three runs, Andrew Abbott pitched five effective innings and Cincinnati won their seventh straight game, with a victory over Chicago.

The Cubs put runners on first and third with one out in the ninth, but Justin Wilson induced a foul pop by Ian Happ and a grounder by Mike Tauchman for his first save.

The Reds have won the first three in this series from the Cubs after taking two of three from their NL Central rivals at Wrigley Field last weekend.

Jeimer Candelario hit a two-out homer in the first inning for the Reds. Friedl's third homer of the season was a two-run shot in the third, and he drove in another run with a groundout in the fifth.

ROYALS 8, MARINERS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Vinnie Pasquantino hit a tiebreaking two-run double during Kansas City's three-run fifth inning, and they beat Seattle.

Kyle Isbel had three RBIs for Kansas City, and Adam Frazier had two hits and scored two runs. The Royals earned their third consecutive win.

Kansas City trailed 3-2 before Frazier doubled and scored on Nick Loftin's single in the fifth. With two outs and runners on the corners, Pasquantino slapped a grounder inside the first base bag.

J.P. Crawford and Mitch Garver homered for Seattle, which lost for the third time in four games. Crawford finished with two hits and two RBIs.

ROCKIES 6, CARDINALS 5

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Ezequiel Tovar homered twice and added two singles while driving in four runs to spark Colorado to a victory over St. Louis.

It was Tovar's second multihomer game of the season for Colorado. Charlie Blackmon added three hits and a run scored.

Victor Vodnik (1-0) pitched 1 2/3 innings of relief for his second career win. Tyler Kinley earned his fourth save and second in this series by pitching a scoreless ninth.

Matt Carpenter homered and scored twice for the Cardinals.

Rockies starter Ryan Feltner allowed no runs in 5 1/3 innings, but failed to earn his first win since April 12. He gave up two hits with a walk

and seven strikeouts.

ORIOLES 5, RAYS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Kyle Bradish went six innings and combined with two relievers on a two-hitter, Gunnar Henderson drove in three runs with his 20th homer of the season, and Baltimore beat Tampa Bay.

After allowing Yandy Díaz's infield single down the third base line leading off the first, Bradish retired 18 in a row. The Rays did not hit a ball out of the infield against Bradish (2-0), who struck out nine.

Danny Coulombe struck out three in two perfect innings before Cionel Pérez gave up Díaz's two-out single in the ninth.

Ryan O'Hearn also homered for the Orioles, who have a major league best 100 home runs. The team record for long balls through 63 games is 101 set in 2016. Henderson's 20 homers are second in the majors behind the Yankees' Aaron Judge, with 21.

BREWERS 5, TIGERS 4

DETROIT (AP)—Jackson Chourio hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the sixth inning and Milwaukee beat Detroit.

Christian Yelich had two hits and drove in two runs, while Brice Turang reached base three times and scored twice.

Milwaukee starter Freddy Peralta labored through his shortest outing this season. Peralta allowed four runs, three earned, and walked five while throwing 94 pitches in 3 1/3 innings.

Jared Koenig (6-1) tossed 1 2/3 innings of scoreless relief. Trevor Megill got the last three outs for his ninth save.

NL Central-leading Milwaukee has won the first two games of the three-game series and seven of 10 overall.

WHITE SOX 6, RED SOX 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Gavin Sheets

hit his first career grand slam, and Chicago won their second straight after a franchise-record 14-game losing streak, beating Boston.

Sheets capped a five-run fifth with his seventh homer of the season, a 399-foot drive to right off Brayan Bello that gave Chicago a 5-1 lead.

Paul DeJong added a solo drive in the seventh against Chase Anderson, and the White Sox earned consecutive wins for the first time since beating Washington on May 14 and 15. Chicago is a major league-worst 17-48.

"We're a strong clubhouse, it's been like this since spring training," Sheets said. "There's two ways we could have gone with this. We could have broken during that streak or pulled together. Everybody in here is going through it together. We all support each other. Just a really close group."

GUARDIANS 8, MARLINS 0

MIAMI (AP)—Ben Lively won his fifth straight start, José Ramirez and Steven Kwan homered, and Cleveland beat Miami.

Lively (6-2) allowed three hits, walked none and struck out one, lowering his ERA to 2.59. Sam Hentges pitched the sixth and Pedro Avila finished the four-hitter for his first big league save and Cleveland's seventh shutout this season.

Josh Naylor had two hits and drove in two runs for the AL Central-leading Guardians.

Miami, an NL worst 22-42, has lost five of six. The Marlins were held to four hits or fewer for the ninth time and advanced only two runners to scoring position.

DODGERS 11, YANKEES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Teoscar Hernández homered twice and drove in six runs, including a grand slam that helped power Los Angeles past New York for their second consecutive victory in this marquee matchup.

Kiké Hernández also went deep and Shohei Ohtani had an RBI single to back rookie Gavin Stone (7-2), who has won three straight starts and five of his last six.

After handing New York just its third series loss this season, the Dodgers will try to cap their first visit to the Bronx since 2016 with a three-game sweep Sunday night.

Aaron Judge hit two homers for the Yankees, giving him a major league-high 23, but they've managed only three runs in 23 innings at the plate since slugger Juan Soto exited Thursday night's win over Minnesota with a forearm injury.

The frustration showed when Giancarlo Stanton slammed his bat after popping up to end the seventh.

In a highly anticipated meeting between first-place teams billed as a potential World Series preview, Teoscar Hernández has stolen the spotlight from the five MVPs on both sides of the field. His two-run double in the 11th inning Friday night broke a scoreless tie in Los Angeles' 2-1 victory, and his solo homer in the second off Nestor Cortes (3-5) got the Dodgers going Saturday.

Mavs' plan to stop Celtics: Get them to fight among themselves



BOSTON

(AP)—Jason Kidd couldn't figure out how to stop the Boston Celtics in Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

Now he's hoping they will get in their own way.

The Mavericks coach seemed eager to sow dissension in the Boston locker room on Saturday when he singled out Jaylen Brown as the Celtics' best player—words transparently designed to irk Jayson Tatum, an actual NBA first-teamer who was sixth in the voting for the league's MVP.

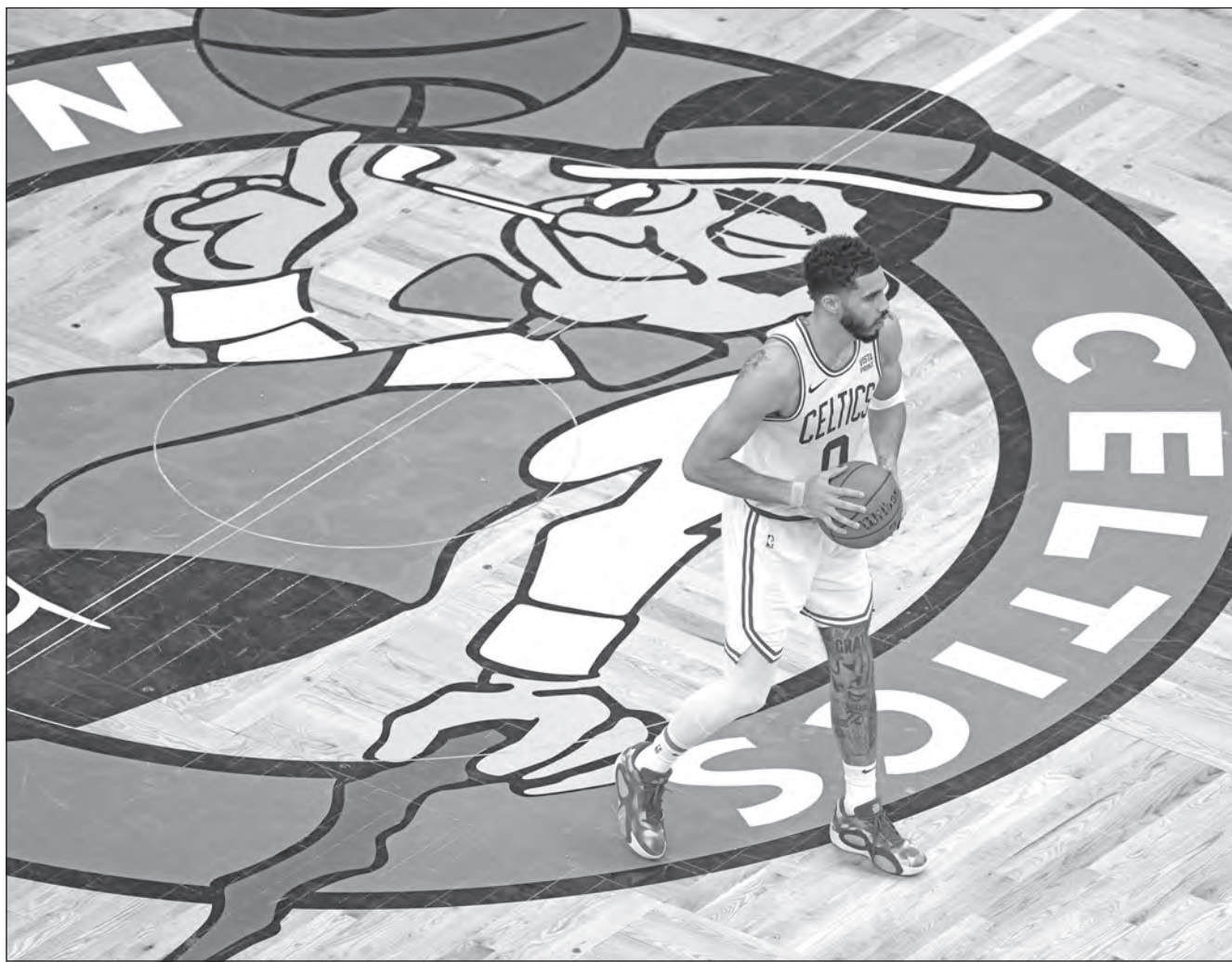
Asked during his off-day media availability about a game-plan to defend Brown, Kidd said, "Well, Jaylen's their best player..." prompting reporters to perk up and wonder: Did he really say that? (It was the final question of his news conference, so there was no follow-up.)

Tatum said it won't work.

"We understand that people try to drive a wedge between us. I guess it's a smart thing to do—or try to do," Tatum said. "We've been in this position for many years, of guys trying to divide us and say that one of us should be traded, or one is better than the other. So it's not our first time at the rodeo."

On that, Brown agreed completely.

"We've been just extremely focused on what our roles and our jobs are. We have all had to sacrifice," he said. "Right now, at this point, it's whatever it takes to win. And we can't let any outside interpretations



Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum (0) holds the ball near midcourt during the second half of Game 1 of the basketball team's NBA Finals against the Dallas Mavericks on Thursday, June 6, 2024, in Boston.

try to get in between us."

Drafted third overall in back-to-back years, Brown and Tatum have emerged as one of the NBA's best duos, combining to lead the Celtics to the Eastern Conference finals five times in their seven seasons together. But even with the success—64 wins this year, the league's No. 1 overall seed, and a second trip

to the NBA Finals—they have had to combat speculation that there wasn't room in the locker room for both of them.

Although Tatum's career numbers have been better, Brown is the highest-paid player in the league—a quirk of timing and age that gave him the first shot at a super-max contract extension that will earn him more than \$300

million over five years. Brown also outplayed Tatum in the 2022 NBA Finals, was the MVP of this year's conference finals and outscored Tatum 22-16 in the Game 1 victory over Dallas on Thursday night.

That may explain why Kidd said on Saturday—twice—that Brown was Boston's main threat.

"Jaylen's their best play-

er," the Mavericks coach said. "He did everything, and that's what your best player does. Just understanding how to play both sides—defense and offense at a high rate—he's been doing that the whole playoffs."

But no one else seems to think so.

Tatum averaged 27 points, eight rebounds and five as-

sists this season, and Brown averaged 23, 5.5 and 3.6. And even with Brown outscoring him in Game 1, Tatum's numbers are also better in the playoffs so far. (And besides: The real star of the opener was Boston big man Kristaps Porzingis.)

Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla said he's not worried about internal rivalries getting in his team's way, as long as his players "focus on the truth."

"What goes on in our locker room, how we communicate with each other, how we build relationships with each other and how we treat each other on and off the floor, that's the most important thing," he said.

The Mavericks have their own Big Two, with five-time All-NBA first-team guard Luka Dončić teaming up with Kyrie Irving to form an All-Star backcourt. Irving, who teamed with LeBron James to win the 2016 NBA championship in Cleveland even as they struggled to co-exist, said he tries not to pay attention to talk pitting him against his teammate.

"I'm just here to play basketball," Irving said. "You've got to be selfless in your approach. Obviously, you're not going to get it right all the time, but as a teammate, you just want to push those other things to the side that don't really matter or get you better as a team. So we just leave it to everybody else to argue whose team it is and who has the most responsibility. It's all our jobs to be prepared."

Lakers conduct public coaching search, considering Hurley, Redick, in hopes of pleasing LeBron

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers' coaching search has been very public, seemingly chaotic and dominated by famous names.

Totally Hollywood, in other words.

The Lakers' reported plan to offer a massive contract to UConn coach Dan Hurley is the latest twist in the month-long race to replace Darvin Ham, who was fired May 3 after two seasons.

On Thursday night, ESPN reported Hurley is traveling to Los Angeles for a Friday meeting with Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka and owner Jeanie Buss. Citing unidentified sources in the report, ESPN also said Hurley informed UConn of his interest in talking to the Lakers on Wednesday and spoke to his players Thursday.

The Lakers were knocked out of the first round of the current playoffs, but the 17-time NBA champion franchise has nicely filled the void of hoops drama during the week before the NBA Finals with steady

leaks about the progress of their quest for a coach who can win a title—and almost as vitally, a coach who can entice LeBron James to finish his career in purple and gold.

According to a person with knowledge of the lengthy search, the Lakers have strongly considered J.J. Redick, the former player and current ESPN analyst who does a podcast with James; Hurley, the back-to-back national championship-winning coach of the Huskies; and James Borrego, the respected former Charlotte Hornets coach and ex-Gregg Popovich assistant who spent last season on New Orleans' staff.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the Lakers aren't commenting publicly on the search to replace Ham.

But they sure are commenting privately.

On Wednesday, the Athletic reported that Redick shockingly was the frontrunner despite his total lack of coaching experience. On Thursday, the

search took another wild turn when ESPN reported the Lakers were instead targeting Hurley, whose candidacy hadn't even been mentioned in many discussions of the job.

The crazy twists are representative of the various factions within the Lakers' brain trust of Buss and Pelinka dispensing narratives to their favored media outlets. The Lakers previously seemed unlikely to make an official hire before the end of the NBA Finals, but the person who spoke to the AP said even that could change, depending on their progress.

While the Dallas Mavericks and the Boston Celtics waited a week to begin the NBA Finals, the Lakers have dominated talk radio, television and message boards with speculation on the best choice to lead James and the Lakers back to contention for a second title together.

The Lakers are making their coaching change at a critical juncture for the franchise's partnership with the NBA's

career scoring leader.

The 39-year-old James just completed his 21st season while playing at a higher level than anyone with that much experience in basketball history, but he has until June 29 to decide whether to exercise his \$51.4 million player option for the 2024-25 season.

James could take the deal, or he could sign an even bigger new contract for more years—or he could become a free agent for the first time in six years.

While 31-year-old Anthony Davis is the Lakers' foundation with a long-term contract in Los Angeles, Buss and Pelinka are clearly determined to keep James alongside him for as long as possible—even publicly floating their willingness to draft his son, Bronny, who just completed one brief collegiate season at USC.

While agent Rich Paul has said James is not involved in the coaching search as he prepares to play for the U.S. at the Paris Olympics, the Lakers' candidates seem designed to

appeal to him.

James' connection with Redick is well-known. James also recently praised Hurley on social media following a podcast interview between Redick and Hurley, with the 20-time All-Star writing that Hurley is "so DAMN GOOD!!! Along with his staff. Super creative with their (offense). Love it."

Hurley has won 141 games in six seasons at UConn, rolling to the past two national titles in impressive fashion. The addition of the nation's top collegiate coach to the Lakers could be enticing to James and his son, who likely still needs extensive development to be a serviceable NBA player.

The Lakers' relative underachievement this season despite a healthy James and Davis was primarily blamed on Ham, the first-time head coach who dismayed many fans and observers with his rotations, preparation and strategic acumen.

The Lakers have chased savvy basketball minds in their latest search, no matter their pedigree: Redick's ency-

clopedic understanding of the game has been on display in his podcast with James, while Hurley favors an NBA-friendly style of play that should translate well to the biggest basketball stage.

Whoever they choose, the Lakers will be adding yet another head coach at a pace typically reserved for underachieving European soccer teams, not powerhouse NBA franchises.

The new hire will be the Lakers' eighth coach since Phil Jackson's departure in 2011 and their fourth coach since James arrived as a free agent in 2018. Frank Vogel led Los Angeles to the 2020 championship, but kept the job for only 225 games over three seasons before being fired exactly 18 months after raising the trophy in the Florida bubble.

Ham was the fourth coach fired by James' teams in the past eight years, joining Cleveland's David Blatt and the Lakers' Luke Walton and Vogel.

Swiatek wins 3rd consecutive women's title by overwhelming Paolini



PARIS (AP)—For a few minutes, anyway, it seemed as if Iga Swiatek was a bit off in the French Open final against Jasmine Paolini. Swiatek kept making mistakes early Saturday, got broken in the third game and trailed at Court Philippe Chatrier.

Might a true surprise be in the offing? Could Paolini not only make a match of this, but actually win it? Um, no. Not even close. Not with

the way Swiatek can dominate opponents, especially on red clay.

■ ■ ■

Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev both will be seeking a first French Open championship when they play each other in the final at Court Philippe Chatrier.

Alcaraz heads into the match Sunday on the red clay with two Grand Slam trophies already. He won the U.S. Open on hard courts in 2022 and Wimbledon on grass last year.

The 21-year-old from Spain can become the youngest man to claim a major title on all three surfaces.

Zverev, a 27-year-old from Germany, is trying to win his first Slam title. He was the runner-up at the 2020 U.S. Open and bowed out in the semifinals in Paris each of the past three years.

Hours before he won his semifinal this time, on Friday, word emerged from a Berlin district court that an out-of-court settlement had ended a



AP

Poland's Iga Swiatek holds the trophy after winning the women's final of the French Open tennis tournament against Italy's Jasmine Paolini at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Saturday, June 8, 2024.

trial stemming from an former girlfriend's accusation of assault during a 2020 argument.

No. 3 seed Alcaraz vs. No. 4 seed Zverev marks the first French Open final since 2004 without at least one of (and occasionally two of) Nadal, Novak Djokovic or Roger Federer participating.

Zverev leads the head-to-head series against Alcaraz 5-4.

■ ■ ■

The top-seeded Swiatek quickly recalibrated her wayward strokes and simply overwhelmed Paolini, grabbing 10 games in a row en route to a 6-2, 6-1 victory that gave her a third consecutive championship at Roland Garros and fourth in five years.

The 23-year-old from Poland had to save a match point in a second-round victory against Naomi Osaka last week, but in the five matches after that three-set escape, Swiatek dropped a total of only 17 games.

"This tournament has been pretty surreal with its beginning and with second round, and then I was able to get my game better and better every match. I'm really proud of myself, because the expectations obviously have been pretty high from the outside. Pressure, as well," said Swiatek, who is 35-2 overall at the French Open, including a current streak of 21 straight victories. "I'm happy that I just went for it and I was ready to deal with all of this — and I could win."

KEVIN

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In the 540 challenge, Arthur Charfauros won as he was the first one to land a 540 variation.

For Codog, whose best trick he landed was the nose-slide shove-it, said after the awards ceremony that it felt great to win first place. "I didn't expect it but I did my best," he said.

As for the competition this year, he thought Gil would win it all again, but that Gil missed a few tricks and that gave Codog the advantage as he landed most of his.

Codog, who was also a finalist in the Game of S-K-A-T-E, said that they should hold the event more often. "It's good for the kids to avoid drugs and stuff like that—just skate," he said.

He then thanked MSSL, "Sois," and the sponsors of the event.

Deleon Guerrero, who is also a chairperson of MSSL, donated the money back to the event to give the skaters another chance to win in another competition after the awards ceremony.

The 36-year-old Deleon Guerrero said for his part, "It's been about 3-4 years since I've skated the way I skated today."

The competition, he said, took a lot of energy out of him. "It took me about three rounds to kind of warm up and land better tricks. It was hard." He added, "I saved a lot of the harder tricks for the final round. I did all the cheap



LEIGH GASES

Participants of the Marianas Surf Skate League's 2nd Annual Marianas Skate Series pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony last Saturday at the skate park between the Gold's Gym and the Garapan Central Park.

and easy tricks in the beginning round and in the last rounds I tried to do more technical tricks in the end."

In the finals against Gil, he said, "It was pretty intense. He was landing good tricks as well and he was also trying to attempt harder tricks to get me out. We were both at the letter T, so it was intense."

With the addition of S-K-A-T-E in this year's competition, he said that it's great. "It's one of the foundations as a skater. Flat ground tricks are the beginning of what everyone learns before they transition to learn how to ride an actual park, so it basically sets the tone of where the trick capability of the skater and the skate community is."

As for the turnout of about 12 skaters, he said that the competition was "super dope" and that the turnout was

good and more than last year's. "We saw a lot of new and young skaters that also took part in the clinic. Hopefully we can keep developing the community and have more opportunities to skate and other recreational activities since we have the skate park," he said.

The level of competition this time around "is definitely in a good position. Everyone's able to do different variations and everyone has their own style as well. It's a good community. Everyone's friends with everybody so I think it's great."

Sponsors of the event are Marpac, Pokka, Saipan Surf Company, Salty Skin Pacific, Local Bones, Caravan of Food, Mariana Arts, and Department of Lands and Natural Resources-Parks and Recreation.

SOCCKER

From page 16

After the group shared with Kumagai the history of the CNMI and Japan, and addressed the importance of the Japanese tourism market in the CNMI, she sat for an interview with Saipan Tribune.

Kumagai, the 2011 World Cup Champion, is a close friend, and former classmate and teammate of NMI soccer head coach Konomi Suzuki, who invited her to visit the CNMI.

The 33-year-old said along with inspiring the community through her presentation and soccer clinic, she wanted to visit Saipan and enjoy her vacation here. Her impression of Saipan? "The beach is beautiful and the weather is nice, while the people are all kind," she said.

During the meet-and-greet, Tan first gave the group a brief introduction of the soccer star and said that it's the first time for NMIFA to invite and host an active international player.

With her short visit, Tan welcomed

her as an ambassador to help promote the CNMI in Japan, as he emphasized the importance of the Japanese tourism market in the CNMI.

"We all want to see more Japanese tourists come back and we're working very hard. Since we have the opportunity for Saki to be here, we want all her followers to visit us as part of our continuous effort to bring back more Japanese tourists," said Tan.

Apatang started the round of introductions and thanked Kumagai for her visit on behalf of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and himself. He also welcomed Kumagai, along with her friends and family to visit the CNMI.

Apatang also acknowledged that soccer in the CNMI is becoming very popular and is one of the fastest growing sports in the CNMI thanks to Tan. With that, he also told Saki to bring her soccer team to play against NMI players.

Then, Tasi Tours Inc. president Junichiro Takahashi, Japan Saipan Travel Association president Masaharu Takahashi, Japanese Society of Northern Mariana Islands chair Seiji

Sato, Tasi Tours Inc. general manager and Marianas Visitors Authority board member Masaru Sunaga, and PDM Promoters, Inc.'s Hideaki Sawada said their welcome in Japanese.

For Cavanaugh's part, she also underscored the importance of the Japanese market and the relationship between Japan and the CNMI. "We have a lot of history with the Japanese and we're really working hard to bring that market back. We spend a lot of money to ensure that the market actually survives. Hopefully next year, we'll be able to have a better and stronger market," she said.

She added, "Thank you Jerry for bringing in Saki because people like you are like ambassadors for us, and we hope that you get really good treatment while you're here. If there's anything that MVA can do for you, please let us know... because we want you to enjoy and we want you to say to your friends in Japan, 'hey, just three hours away, there's this little place that really, really wants us back and wants to show us their hospitality.'"

ADEN

From page 16

to go to the Micronesian Games. It's the fact that he has training camps to go to with Adam Coon to train for the Olympics, along with the [U20 Pan-American Championships] in July. There's a lot of variables involved for him not to participate. Right now, it's hard for him with all the travel, and to add another long trip like that, it's very daunting for his body. We don't want to wear out his body and mind as far as that's concerned."

While back home on Saipan, Aden's spending time with family as his grandmother, Ramona is ill, but will also try to find the time to train with the athletes for the Micro Games, along with getting some much needed rest.

Aden said about being back home, "it's fun. It's a good experience. I've missed the family and being here—as much as the humidity is killing me. Outside of that, I've been fine. It's fun being back and seeing everybody that I haven't seen in so long."

Last April, the Oregon State University Beaver placed third in the 130-kg Greco-Roman Challenge Tournament Finals during the 2024 Olympic Wrestling Trials in Pennsylvania and is the training partner of Adam Coon of the U.S.A. Olympic Wrestling Team.

With that, he is now the alternate for Coon in the Olympics as the second place had an injury. Basically, if anything befalls Coon—injury or illness prior to the Olympics, Attao will

take his place.

Aden said his ultimate goal in the sport is to reach and win in the Olympics. "Since I started, the ultimate goal is to win the Olympics. All of these are just stepping stones up until that point," he said.

He started wrestling when he was 7 years old and now, his competitors in the multiple tournaments he's joined are in their late 20s to 30s.

Right after the Olympic Trials, Attao took to the mat again and placed first in the 130-kg division of the 2024 U.S. Open Wrestling Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada. Then, just before flying out to Saipan, he competed in the U.S.A. Wrestling U23 Nationals and U20 World Team Trials in Ohio, where he made the 2024 U20 Greco World Team.

Aden already has a long list of travel for wrestling tournaments waiting for him after his short vacation back home. But before the tourneys, he's attending the Olympic Wrestling Team Camp in Colorado to get his rhythm back when he leaves this Friday.

This July 11-13, Aden is suiting up for the U20 Pan-American Championships in Lima, Peru. The wrestling schedule for the 2024 Paris Olympics is set for August, then he takes on the U20 World Championships in Pontevedra, Spain from September 2-8. Then, he flies once again to Europe for the U23 World Championships in Tirana, Albania.

Aden is the son of Jesse Attao and Stacey Hammar, and the grandson of Jesus and Ramona Attao of Navy Hill.



**Phillies win
Game 1 of the
London Series
7-2 over the
Mets**
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**Swiatek wins
3rd consecutive
women's title by
overwhelming
Paolini**
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI welcomes int'l soccer star Saki Kumagai



LEIGH GASES

From left, Saki Kumagai's manager Kouken Kuroki, Tasi Tours general manager and Marianas Visitors Authority board member Masaru Sunaga, MVA chair Gloria Cavanaugh, Tasi Tours president Junichiro Takahashi, PDM's Hideaki Sawada, NMIFA's Jerry Tan, Japan National Women's Football Team captain Saki Kumagai, NMI national soccer team head coach Konomi Suzuki, Japanese Society of Northern Mariana Islands chair Seiji Sato, and Japan Saipan Travel Association president Masaharu Takahashi pose for a group photo after their meet-and-greet at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Friday.

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER

The CNMI was treated to a rare visit by a current international star athlete, as Japan National Women's Football Team captain Saki Kumagai made her way to meet with and inspire the community last week.



Kumagai arrived last Thursday and before her inspiring "The Way of My Life" presentation and soccer clinic (the story will be posted in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune*), she was first welcomed in

a meet-and-greet by Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, NMIFA president Jerry Tan, Marianas Visitors Authority chair Gloria Cavanaugh, and members of the Japanese community at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Friday.

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LEIGH GASES

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, third from right, poses with Japan National Women's Football Team captain Saki Kumagai, fourth from right, during their meet and greet with the soccer star at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan with members of the Japanese community last Friday.

Kevin, Tim shreds way to top 2nd Skate Series

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



Skater Kevin Codog, last year's third place, redeemed himself as he shredded his way to first place in the expert competition of the Marianas Surf Skate League's 2nd Annual Marianas Skate Series last Saturday.

Tim Deleon Guerrero, or "Sois," also etched his name in the series as the champion of the new Game of S-K-A-T-E at the skatepark between the Gold's Gym and the Garapan Central Park.

In the expert competition, Codog took first place with a total of 804 points from his first run of 261 points, and 272 points plus 271 points for landing his best tricks.

Second place was Aaron Lavapie with 679 points—231 from his first run, then 225 points and 223 points in the best trick portion.

Third was last year's champion Sean Gil with 518 points. He collected 262 points in his first run and



LEIGH GASES

Middle, first place Kevin Codog, second place Aaron Lavapie, left, and third place Sean Gil, right, pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony of the Marianas Surf Skate League's 2nd Annual Marianas Skate Series last Saturday at the skate park between the Gold's Gym and the Garapan Central Park.

landed just one trick for 256 points.

As for the Game of S-K-A-T-E, which is like H-O-R-S-E in basketball, Deleon Guerrero beat out Gil in

the finals. In the semis, Deleon Guerrero beat out Alfred Guevarra, while Gil defeated Kurt Arborilas.

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Aden visits home for much needed R&R



LEIGH GASES

The Attao family, including wrestler Aden Attao, center, his uncle Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao (Ind-Saipan), second left, his father Jesse, left, grandmother Ramona Attao, third right, grandfather Jesus Attao, fourth right, and uncle Jojo Attao, right, pose for a family photo during an interview with Aden last Thursday at their home.

By LEIGH GASES

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REPORTER



Following a busy and productive wrestling season, the CNMI's Aden Attao is back home for much needed rest and relaxation.

The up-and-coming 19-year-old wrestler arrived last week with his

father Jesse to be with family after his last visit when he was 6 years old.

Attao was a CNMI National Wrestling Team hopeful for the 2024 Micronesian Games, but due to a hectic schedule of back-to-back travel and tournaments, he could just not find the time to suit up.

His father said in an interview last week, "it's not that he doesn't want

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